

HIGH TECH/HIGH SKILL BIOMEDICAL TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM FRANKLIN, TN

The BioTN Foundation including local biomedical industry representatives, along with Workforce Essentials and the TN Department of Labor, TN Board of Regents, TN Department of Education, and Williamson County Schools were pleased to open a Biomedical Technology Program beginning September 2, 2008 at Independence High School. The high tech/high skill program provides dual enrollment for juniors and seniors in high school and adult students re-entering the workforce or making mid-career changes. Students who completed the program have obtained jobs at Williamson Medical Center, Biomimetics Therapeutics, Centennial Medical Center, St. Thomas Hospital and other facilities. Eighteen Biomedical industry and health care facilities provided job shadowing and clinicals experiences for the students. Many of the students have continued their education in universities and colleges as Auburn University, UT Chattanooga, Lambuth University, Bethel College and others.

The one year program curriculum was jointly designed and developed by the BioTN Foundation, North Tennessee Workforce Board, local business/industry representatives, the TN Board of Regent's Colleges, Universities and Technology Centers and Vanderbilt University. The Tennessee Technology Centers at Murfreesboro and Nashville are conducting the program.

The Biomedical Technology Program is a 900 hour (one year) program that provides students with rigorous academic training in the biomedical sciences, as well as, important workplace skills often overlooked in many academic settings. Students have obtained the ACT certificate in WorkKeys and upon completion of the Biomedical Technology Program will receive a diploma from the TN Technology Center. The program includes topics such as Biomedical Applications, Scientific Research, Laboratory Assistant Skills, Basic Pharmacy, Monitoring and Informatics. The third trimester will be an internship (300 hours) in industry. Students are working from wireless laptops throughout the program developing strong skills preparing for high tech, high skill jobs of the future.

Marla Rye, President of Workforce Essentials states: "Creating an employer driven training program like this one is critical in maintaining a competitive workforce and growing the biomedical industry in middle Tennessee."

Leslie Wisner Lynch, Executive Director of the BioTN Foundation, and Director of Applied Research at BioMimetic Therapeutics, Inc. states, "This is an exciting time for everyone involved as we believe that these kinds of programs are essential to the long-term success and competitiveness of our students, business and state. We have been pleased to partner with the Tennessee Board of Regent's Technology Centers in Murfreesboro and Nashville to develop this program and are proud to provide

our students with not only the biomedical knowledge and content of a traditional classroom but the application of that knowledge through the last 300 hours internship component of the program. Our local business partners, who so enthusiastically support this program, look forward to seeing these students and, perhaps, providing future employment opportunities for many of the graduates. Whether these graduates move directly into the workforce or on for additional post-secondary educational training, we are confident that this program positions them very competitively among others pursuing similar career paths and begins to position our region nicely among other regions with growing biomedical industries.”

James King, Vice Chancellor, TN Technology Centers for the Board of Regents states, “This is a great opportunity for technical training in a growing and needed field. The Tennessee Technology Centers are happy to partner with the Department of Labor and Workforce, Department of Education, Williamson County School Systems, the BioTN Foundation and the business leaders in this community to meet the needs of the workforce.

Ralph Barnett, Assistant Commissioner, Career and Technical Education states, “The Biomedical Technician Program will provide students the opportunity to participate in a rigorous and relevant career that leads to academic achievement and successful employment in a global economy.”

For additional information contact:

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