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NATIONAL CENTER FOR THE BIOTECHNOLOGY WORKFORCE HOSTS BIOSCIENCE INDUSTRY FELLOWS PROGRAM

Winston-Salem, NC—Selected educators from across the country are invited to take part in a once in a lifetime, hands-on opportunity to explore the bioscience industry this summer—all at no cost to them.

The National Center for the Biotechnology Workforce based at Forsyth Tech is looking for 10-12 high impact, secondary and higher-education instructors for the Bioscience Industry Fellows Program (BIFP) to be held June 5th-June 29th, 2017. You don't have to be a science educator to participate! The National Science Foundation Advanced Technological Education Grant* has funded this four-week professional development initiative to provide real-world and hands-on exposure to bioscience industrial and organizational settings. All it needs are a few good educators to join!

During their stay, participants in the program get a panoramic view of biosciences through a variety of opportunities. They travel to and get a chance to tour multiple universities, educational programs, and research parks across North Carolina. Those include NC bioscience industrial facility laboratories such as North Carolina Central University's Biomanufacturing Research Institute and Technology Enterprise, Wake Forest Institute for Regenerative Medicine, and the Joint School for Nanoscience and Nanoengineering.

Participants also take part in laboratory skills "boot camps" hosted by BioNetwork's Capstone Center and The Natural Products Laboratory located at Asheville-Buncombe Technical Community College. Participants become immersed in additional skills labs provided by our 3 collaborating community

colleges: Forsyth Technical Community College, Alamance Community College, and Rowan-Cabarrus Community College. The lab provides a broad range of skills including, but not limited to: instrumentation, sample preparation, cell culture, and transfection.

“We want instructors to get a sense of what it’s like to be in industry, so when they get back to students, it’s more relatable and contextualized,” explained Project Director, Russ Read. “This is firsthand workforce training, which will hopefully help educators to create dynamic lessons in their classrooms that inspire students to pursue biosciences careers and bright futures.”

Teachers also gain invaluable insight from industry leadership at several industrial facilities such as Piedmont Animal Health, Carolina Liquid Chemistries, Novozymes, and Biogen. The group also visits the North Carolina Biotechnology Center. The group also enjoys special guest presenters, and the opportunity to develop and present instructional modules that can be shared with their institutions.

“Our company has had BIFP fellows visiting our facilities and learning about Animal and Human Health pharmaceutical for two years,” said Michael Kelly, Chief Operating Officer at Piedmont Animal Health and Chairman of the Piedmont Triad Region NC Biotechnology Advisory Committee. “We enjoy talking with them on the intricate aspects of putting new breakthroughs on the market. We also like having the fellows visit our biotech companies in North Carolina and the Piedmont region.”

This is the fourth annual fellows program. To date, the BIFP has hosted 27 instructors from 12 different states. Previous participants rave about the program and how it’s changed the way they teach to become more interactive and engaging for students.

“The experience helped open my eyes to the broad reach of biotechnology in our society,” said Peter Kim, with the Academy of Health Sciences & Biotechnology at NW Cabarrus High School. “I am now better-equipped to guide my students who are interested in pursuing careers both in and out of the laboratory.”

“This is both an exciting and wonderful National Science Foundation-sponsored opportunity to network with leaders in the bioscience industry, explore cutting edge research, and gain invaluable insight,” said Julie Littrell who serves as a professor of biology at Kaskaskia College in Centralia, Illinois. “I was able to brush up on hands-on bioscience laboratory skills, and bring direct applications as well as a wealth of information back to our learning communities! Thank you for a great learning experience!”

The program annually includes more than 23 NC educational, non-profit, and bioscience industry facilities. It gives employers an opportunity to provide feedback to instructors about different

challenges facing their workforce and helps instructors to visualize different career aspects of biotechnology.

The National Center for the Biotechnology Workforce is based at Forsyth Tech and was created in 2004, through a US Department of Labor High Growth Grant Initiative. In 2008, NCBW became an affiliate of North Carolina Community College System's, BioNetwork. The NCBW is a training and educational initiative created through a cooperative agreement between the US Department of Labor, Forsyth Technical Community College, and BioNetwork. The NSF ATE BIFP project grant is DUE # 1304010*.

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If you would like more information about the BIFP, please contact Russ Read at 336-734-7651 or email at rread@forsythtech.edu or Allison Nestor, Research Assistant, at 336-734-3857 or anestor@forsythtech.edu. You can also visit www.biotechworkforce.org



2016 BIFP group at The Capstone Center

