

SciTECH IDEAS IN ACTION

The SciTech Lecture Series took a somewhat different approach in November for its final lecture for Fall Semester 2014. It provided the students, faculty and community with an event that did not follow the normal protocol in that it did not showcase a well-known, high-profile individual, but a panel of three of our Bioscience Industry Fellowship Project (BIFP) Grant participants.

The National Science Foundation funded this BIFP Grant through the Advanced Technological Education Program DUE Grant #1304010, which is a professional development initiative to improve the quality and relevance of a community college bioscience education. The objectives of this project are to help instructors contextualize learning by providing real-world exposure through guided, hands-on externships in authentic bioscience industry/organizational settings; to help instructors prepare students for increasingly technical coursework geared to industry standards; and to enable instructors to generate a better-prepared workforce and highlight new career opportunities.

Three of the ten BIFP 2014 participants, Daymond Lindell, Heather King, and Jude Okoyeh, volunteered to share their experiences from their visits to the various industries across North Carolina. In a panel, they described what this month-long journey had entailed and how it had given them the tools to share the biosciences with their students. One panel member is quoted as saying, "I can now answer the question, 'why do I need to know this?' Another member affirmed that, "The learning module allowed me to see how I can incorporate examples from biosciences into my developmental math classes." They all seemed to agree on the same consensus that this experience had given them the confidence they needed to be aware of what Biotechnology is, what it consists of as a whole, and its purpose in society today.

To conclude the lecture, they encouraged others to participate in the same Fellowship experience offered in Year 2 of the grant, during the summer of 2015 from June 1st to June 26th. The Candidate Application is: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/3VL2N32>

