



Florida Advanced Technological Education Center



NEWS from
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Biotechnology Industry Inventory for Greater Tampa Bay Gauging regional bio-technology workforce demands

Recognizing the impact new biomedical technology has on Tampa's technical workforce, FCoE- BITT (Florida Center of Excellence for Bimolecular Identification for Targeted Therapeutics) partnered with Florida Advanced Technological Education Center to conduct a first-cut inventory of existing biotechnology companies in the greater Tampa bay region. The initiative is part of BITT's multi-faceted effort to identify current training needs, job categories, required skill-sets, and to assess the growing workforce demand for bio-technicians in the region.

Kim Wilson, project manager for BITT at Hillsborough Community College in Brandon said "The inventory provides much needed in-depth information to step-up the development of educational opportunities and programs sequentially sustaining the necessary labor force." It also complements BITT's post-baccalaureate professional development program to include technician, undergraduate/graduate training components.

(more)

Surveys were conducted in early 2009 and involved local biopharmaceutical, research and development, and medical device manufacturers. Results show approximately 64% of the surveyed companies market their goods internationally, with technical training and “quality assurance” identified as their primary training needs. Required skill-sets included laboratory experience; mechanical/electrical skills; mechanical aptitude, manufacturing and computer skills. Information developed from the survey is being used to form an industry-centered focus group targeted to establish characteristics and expectations of a degree program in Biotechnology currently under development at HCC-Brandon. For more information on the surveys, or to review the industry inventory visit <http://fl-ate.org/projects/bitt-industry.html>.

***FLATE** (Florida Advanced Technological Education Center) is a National Science Foundation Regional Center of Excellence, committed to ensuring that Florida has a well prepared workforce for advanced and emerging technologies related to manufacturing. Created in 2004, FLATE is one of 36 Advanced Technological Education Centers in the United States funded by the National Science Foundation focused on improving science, technology, engineering, and mathematics education and training to meet the needs of American advanced technology industries. For more information, visit www.fl-ate.org*

***FCoE- BITT** (Florida Center of Excellence for Bimolecular Identification for Targeted Therapeutics) is a state legislatively-supported biotechnology-based applied research center. The research and development center is located at the University of South Florida in Tampa, and its workforce development program is housed in FLATE at Hillsborough Community College in Brandon. FCoE-BITT is one of several Florida centers of excellence committed to transitioning applied research to local and statewide economic development. For more information visit <http://fl-ate.org/projects/bitt.html>*

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