



Florida Advanced Technological Education Center



**NEWS** from  
FLATE  
10414 E. Columbus Dr.  
Tampa, FL 33619

Kim Wilson  
Project Manager  
Tel: (813) 253.7845  
email: wilson@fl-ate.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **Biotechnology Industry Focus Group in Greater Tampa Bay**

FCoE- BITT (Florida Center of Excellence for Bimolecular Identification for Targeted Therapeutics) at Hillsborough Community College-Brandon is partnering with Workforce Florida to host a biotechnology industry focus group. The focus group will be held Dec. 3, from noon to 3 p.m. at the University of South Florida Downtown Center, and is part of a series of regional focus groups conducted by Employ Florida Banner Center for Biotechnology at the University of Florida's, Center of Excellence for Regenerative Health Biotechnology (CERHB).

Kim Wilson, project manager of FCoE-BITT at HCC-Brandon said the focus group will gauge biotechnology-based educational and training needs targeted at addressing workforce needs of the biotech sector in greater Tampa Bay. The session will be moderated by Dr. Christopher Reuter, technical director of Osprey Biotechnics Inc.—a leading manufacturer of specialty biologicals located in Sarasota, and will serve as a platform for “cross communication between industry, education and government agencies”.

(more)

## 1<sup>st</sup> add Biotechnology Forum

Participants include an eclectic mix of industry representatives, members of regional workforce boards, representatives from local chambers of commerce as well as professors engaged in teaching biotechnology courses at regional colleges/universities. Discussions will catalogue key educational and technical credentials sought by current and potential employers, as well as explore opportunities for professional development.

Lori Wokciechowski, assistant coordinator of education and training at CERHB hopes the focus group will help formulate strategies “to deliver industry-specific training programs, identify curriculum and training needs as well as emerging trends and occupations.” Results from the focus group will also be used to identify existing gaps between educational programs and expected industry needs, streamline current and develop future courses that match the needs of the biotechnology industry in Tampa bay. It will also be combined with other focus group results to better define regional and statewide needs.

***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.*

The ***Employ Florida Banner Center for Biotechnology***, at the University of Florida’s Center of Excellence for Regenerative Health Biotechnology (CERHB) is a catalyst for building the infrastructure to support Florida’s growing biotechnology-based industry, primarily through the development and implementation of training programs to create world-class workforce talent.

####