



FLORIDA ADVANCED TECHNOLOGICAL EDUCATION
CENTER for EXCELLENCE IN MANUFACTURING EDUCATION

NEWS from
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Biotechnology workshop: A unified effort to establish a firm biotech base in Florida

In an effort to meet the growing workforce demands for bio-technicians in the greater Tampa Bay area, and establish a solid foundation for a new advanced technology program in biotechnology at Hillsborough Community College in Brandon, FLATE partnered with FCoE-BITT to support the professional development of four science teachers at a three day training workshop. The training was held Feb. 19-21 at the Center of Excellence for Regenerative Health Biotechnology Education Center at the University of Florida in Gainesville, and reflects FLATE's mission to support workforce development for new and emerging industry sectors.

The workshop covered two tracks: processes, facilities, and regulatory affairs; and quality assurance and quality control. In keeping with its theme—Introduction to Industrial Biotechnology: Working in a Regulated Environment—the workshop blended online modules, classroom exercises, wet-lab skills, and the integration of these concepts to simulate the work experience in a regulated environment.

(more)

1st add Biotech Workshop

David Flanigan, assistant professor who teaches Chemistry at HCC-Brandon, said the workshop's main focus was to observe skills that are pertinent to current employees, and prospective students who are considering careers in biotechnology. Flanigan said "the lessons were useful in learning key DNA isolation and analysis techniques that are highly applicable in a real-world setting, and reflects a growing focus within the biotech industry to use bacterial/viral components while modifying and manufacturing vaccines." Upon completion, the four faculty members received an industry-recognized certificate, and documentation of 16 hours of on-line modules as well as 24 hours of wet-lab experience.

***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.*

(more)

2nd add Biotech Workshop

BITTS's workforce component builds strategic partnerships with local biotech companies related to BITT's research efforts, develops industry-validated training, course content, and curriculum to address the needs of the biotech workforce sector in the greater Tampa bay area. For more information visit www.fl-ate.org/projects/bitt, www.bitt.usf.edu

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