

FCoE-BITT

Florida Center of Excellence
Biomolecular Identification and Targeted Therapeutics



The Biomolecular Identification and Targeted Therapeutics Center (BITT) at the University of South Florida is a Florida Department of Education Center of Excellence. Beginning in January 2008, FLATE, the National Science Foundation's Advanced Technological Education Center for Florida, housed at HCC, partnered with BITT to facilitate the workforce development components of BITT. This activity is the basis of a BITT to FLATE three year \$500,000 sub-award which began in January 2008.

Mission

- Develop and then facilitate the movement of promising biotechnology based therapeutics to market and commercialization in Florida.
- Create jobs in the biotechnology industry in the state of Florida and greater Tampa Bay region.
- Promote workforce development through universities, colleges and industry interaction to foster and support the biotechnology industry in Florida.
- Improve Florida's national ranking in biotechnology.

Workforce Objectives

- Develop an inventory of greater Tampa Bay biomedical, biotechnology, and therapeutics industries - including those still in the incubator stages.
- Conduct a first cut workforce needs analysis for the industries identified in the inventory.
- Produce an academic inventory of educational opportunities and academic programs (high school through university) in the region to identify current or needed local components of bio-related career pathways that can be built upon, including developing a 2-year program at HCC customizable to industry.
- Using this data and working with industry, educators, FLATE and BITT, identify the gaps between existing educational programs and industry expected needs.
- Provide resources (curriculum and recruitment/career awareness materials) to help community college and high school programs align with industry needs using a curriculum reform activity model similar to the efforts FLATE has successfully conducted in the Engineering and Manufacturing Technology sector.