

CSU Biocompass Newsletter

CSU

The California State University

PROGRAM FOR EDUCATION AND RESEARCH IN BIOTECHNOLOGY (CSUPERB)

Advancing Industry with Education

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Private and Public Sectors Converge at Life Sciences Workforce Summit

Nearly 120 educators, workforce and economic development experts, industry professionals and government officials convened at CSU Los Angeles for a Life Sciences Workforce Summit on October 12, 2010. CSUPERB organized the meeting in partnership with the Los Angeles City Workforce Investment Board (WIB), the Pasadena Bioscience Collaborative, the California Community Colleges and SoCalBio. The organizing partners shared an interest in finding out more about successful private-public coalitions in southern California aimed at life science workforce development. We guessed that others might share that interest and hoped a summit would engage interested organizations and foster additional partnerships across the region. Indeed the summit drew both thought leaders and hands-on experts (51% from higher education, 29% workforce/economic development, and 20% industry), including a strong life sciences “CEO” presence. This last point is critical because industry leadership and commitment are needed to shape regional workforce development efforts for long-lasting impact.

Deputy Mayor Austin Beutner from Los Angeles Mayor Villaraigosa’s office, Willie Zuniga, Grifols Biologicals CEO, and Gregg Irish, Executive Director of the LA City WIB, kicked off the summit with comments about the real and strategic need for thoughtful solutions and engaged partners to create economic opportunities in the current fiscal climate. The meeting featured three notable projects, followed by a discussion about life sciences industry workforce issues and needs. The first panel described a LA City WIB-funded project to prepare biomedical manufacturing professionals, involving Baxter BioScience, Los Angeles Valley College and Community Career Development. Next, panelists from Clarity BioSciences, the Southern California Biotech Center at Miramar College and San Diego State University described a federal Department of Labor-funded project to increase the number of licensed medical laboratory technicians and clinical laboratory scientists in California. The third panel focused on the need to develop an entrepreneurial life science workforce along with an infrastructure to foster new companies, with speakers from the Pasadena Bioscience Collaborative, Momentum Biosciences and Auritec Pharmaceuticals. Bruce Huebner, Biocompass Advisory Board member and seasoned biotechnology industry executive, led a discussion about emerging workforce needs, ensuring that participants took away a good sense of the current priorities of the fast moving, high-tech life sciences business community. Afterwards 93% of the participants surveyed said that they would attend a similar life sciences workforce summit in the future!

Photo Captions (L to R): (left) Panel 1 featured a private-public partnership formed to train biomedical manufacturing technicians (l to r): Wendie Johnston (Pasadena City College), Gloria Moore (Community Career Development), Tim Flynn (Baxter BioScience), and Lennie Ciufa (Los Angeles Valley College). (center) Rhonda Honeycutt (Clarity BioSciences) and Bruce Huebner (LynxCom Partners and Biocompass Advisory Board member) chat during a networking break. (right) Deans Stanley Maloy (SDSU), Jim Henderson (CSU Los Angeles) and Bob Koch (CSU Fullerton) catch up with Jill Adler-Moore (Cal Poly Pomona) at the Life Sciences Workforce Summit. More photos available at www.calstate.edu/csuperb

Life Science Workforce Summit Participants

came from Community Career Development, LA City Workforce Investment Board (WIB), LA County Department of Public Social Services, Los Angeles Economic Development Corporation, LA Urban League, California Economic Development Division, Long Beach Job Corps, LA Job Corps Center, Canoga Park WorkSource Center, Foothill WIB, Hollywood WorkSource, South Valley WorkSource Center, Van Nuys WorkSource Center, Veriyo WIB, the Verdugo Consortium, Auritec, Baxter BioScience, Cedars-Sinai Medical Center, City of Hope, Clarity BioSciences, Grifols, LG Professionals, LynxCom Partners, MannKind Corporation, Momentum Biosciences, On Assignment/Lab Support, Pasadena Bioscience Collaborative, the Werc Shop, LG Professionals, Rxresearchstaffing, California Biotechnology Foundation, SoCalBio, Cal Poly Pomona, CSU Chancellor’s Office, CSU Channel Islands, CSU Fullerton, CSU Fresno, CSU Long Beach, CSU Los Angeles, CSU Northridge, CSU San Bernardino, CSU San Marcos, San Diego State University, San Jose State University, Citrus College, College of the Canyons, East Los Angeles College, El Camino College, Pasadena City College, Saddleback College, Santa Monica College, LA Trade Tech College, LA Valley College, Moorpark College, University of Southern California and UC Riverside.

Biocompass has been piloted by CSU campus presidents in the Los Angeles (L.A.) region as a private-public workforce development partnership involving the eight CSU campuses in the greater L.A. region, the Southern California Biomedical Council (SoCalBio), the Pasadena Bioscience Collaborative and the L.A./Orange County Biotech Center at Pasadena City College. This year Biocompass projects include the ongoing development of the website and a new certificate program in Clinical Trials Management, work funded by a grant from the Small Business Administration (SBA).

The **CSU Biocompass** newsletter is published twice a year and describes the goals, participants and activities of CSU biotechnology workforce development projects. If you have news or information you'd like to publish in the newsletter or at the Biocompass website, please contact CSUPERB.

SBA Earmark Grant Advisory Board

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www.csubiocompass.org

Biocompass Website Expands Statewide!

This spring CSUPERB expanded the Biocompass website (www.csubiocompass.org) to include biotechnology industry-responsive programs from all CSU universities. Based on the SBA grant-funded milestones, the initial premise was to provide industry professionals with a one-stop website listing industry-responsive programs available across the CSU. However, since the initial launch, the website garnered interest from workforce development partners responding to federal and statewide grant opportunities and from CSU campuses interested in sharing biotechnology curriculum. CSUPERB continues work to build out career information and resources on the website. For instance Rupinder Bhathal (Director, Industry Partnerships) is interviewing life sciences industry professionals (many are CSU graduates!) so that we can feature real-world stories and information about 'in demand' career tracks. The goal is to raise awareness about job opportunities in the industry and to provide links to corresponding CSU programs. CSUPERB is also working with CSU Career Center directors across the state to collaborate on these initiatives as part of their service to CSU students.

Certificate Update: Biotechnology Project Management, Quality Assurance

As reported in previous issues, Deans Marge Gordon (CSU Dominguez Hills), Gary Berg (CSU Channel Islands) and Executive Director Francesca Ringland (San Diego State University) worked with CSUPERB to offer the Biotechnology Project Management Certificate in Quality Assurance for the first time in January 2010. While we met the challenge of rapidly delivering industry-responsive curriculum within the first year of the SBA grant, the aggressive schedule did not allow sufficient outreach and marketing to build a sufficient student cohort. Only the CSU Channel Islands Project Management (MGT 471) course met enrollment targets because it was offered as part of the existing Masters in Biotechnology program. Despite enthusiastic backing and demonstrated industry need articulated by the SBA Advisory Board, the deans decided not to offer the courses as a bundled certificate again this year. All participants agreed that increased coordination to build student interest is needed and recommended that CSUPERB facilitate system-wide meetings about sharing online biotechnology curriculum.

Certificate Update: Biotechnology Project Management, Clinical Trials

CSUPERB is working with the Program for Applied Biotechnology Sciences (PABS) alliance at CSU Fullerton, CSU LA, and Cal Poly Pomona to offer the Clinical Trials Management courses as a concentration area within the joint Masters in Biotechnology program (<http://pabs.fullerton.edu/>). The four courses developed by the CSU faculty-industry professional team this spring will be offered as a stand-alone certificate by CSU Fullerton and San Diego State University beginning in January 2011. The certificate courses are: Regulatory Requirements for Medical Products, Setting up a Clinical Trial, Managing a Clinical Trial, and Pre-market Submission Process. Unlike the Quality Assurance certificate, there is not a set of relevant, existing CSU courses available, except for the Regulatory Affairs content. As a result work is underway to develop three new, online courses with the OASIS (Online Academic Strategies and Instructional Support) group at CSU Fullerton. The team will offer a workshop at the 23rd Annual CSU Biotechnology Symposium (January 7-8 at Hyatt Regency Orange County) in answer to requests for meetings about sharing online biotechnology curriculum.

Life Sciences Workforce Survey

CSUPERB is working with Radford, BayBio, the California Community Colleges and BIOCOM to pull together employment information related to biotechnology industry job titles in California. We plan to analyze data from the annual Radford Executive Life Sciences Compensation surveys. We hope to issue the first of many annual reports in the spring to better assess industry needs, job growth and employment trends over time.