BIO-LINK’S 11TH ANNUAL SUMMER FELLOWS FORUM

The Next Generation: Crossroads to the Future

Individuals interested in attending the Forum and can provide their own funding for the Conference Registration Fee ($630.00 Single Occupancy or $350.00 Commuter) and all travel costs, should apply and register online (www.bio-link.org) or call the National Center at 415-487-2470 for further information.

Fellows will learn new skills and techniques, examine and test exemplary curriculum models and course material, engage in dialogue about ethical, legal, and social issues in biotechnology and learn how to disseminate this information within their own regions. The weeklong activities include: concurrent workshops, an industry tour, a dinner banquet with a keynote speaker, and some free time for sightseeing. Fellows are expected to implement new strategies into their own programs, to lead regional staff development activities, and provide prompt response to follow-up surveys.

Nebraska MentorLinks Visit California Bay Area

The MentorLinks: Advancing Technological Education program, is sponsored by the American Association of Community Colleges and is supported by the National Science Foundation. MentorLinks is designed to help colleges develop or strengthen technician training programs in STEM fields through mentoring, professional development opportunities, and technical assistance; to establish connections for colleges to identify new ideas and relationships through networking opportunities at program meetings and Advanced Technological Education (ATE) National Conferences; and to help colleges gain insight about support for building and sustaining new programs.

Dr. Bart Gledhill, Co-PI for Bio-Link and Dr. Lisa Seidman, Bio-Link North Central Regional Director are mentoring community colleges that are starting biotechnology programs. Dr. Gledhill is mentoring Mid Plains Community College in North Platte, Nebraska and Dr. Seidman is mentoring Bluegrass Community and Technical College in Lexington, Kentucky.

The Mid Plains team, Vice President Marilyn McGahan and Biology Faculty Kaitlin Guzzi met with Jo-Anne Hongo at Genentech, Inc. and former community college students who are now employed there. They also visited City College of San Francisco and Contra Costa College to learn about their biotechnology programs.
Crossroads to the Future

Bio-Link is at the crossroads of reinforcing its powerful national network and branching out to connect with new biotech programs as well as other disciplines. We will have a series of opportunities to work together to craft the future direction of the Next-Generation Bio-Link Center. One of these will be at the Community College Day on May 17 at the BIO International Convention in Atlanta, Georgia. We will also have time to work together at our weeklong 11th Annual Summer Fellows Forum in Berkeley, California. Another summer national gathering will accompany the BioEconomy Summit on June 22-25 in Santa Clara, California. In addition, the newly formed HI-TEC Conference in July in Scottsdale, Arizona will be the opportunity to exchange best practices across technologies. With the rapidly accelerating growth of the biotechnology industry and the convergence of the biosciences with other disciplines, technical applications and job requirements are changing and Bio-Link is prepared to adjust its goals and activities to better prepare students for this reality.

2009 Biotech Workforce Development Summit

April 21-22, 2009
Washington, DC
Optional Pre-Conference Seminar April 20, 2009
Optional Post-Conference Seminar April 22, 2009

See Elaine Johnson from Bio-Link, speak at The Performance Institute’s The 2009 Biotech Workforce Development Summit. Friends of Bio-Link receive 10% off tuition! To receive the discount, enter the code PRTOT.

Review the agenda online at: www.performanceweb.org/pdfs/events/S266.pdf

The BioEconomy Summit

Thursday, June 25, 2009
7:30am - 8:00pm
Santa Clara University, Santa Clara, California

To learn more about the BioEconomy Summit and to register, please visit the BioEconomy homepage at: www.baybio.org/institute/wt/page/BioEconomy_Summit

Early bird discount on registration applies through May 14!

New Program Survey Coming

Bio-Link’s Project Manager, Kathie Whelchel reports that following the preliminary program survey we sent out last year, we will be sending out another survey to get a better sense of the kinds of students attracted to Biotechnology and related Bioscience programs. This survey will come through Survey Monkey and should be easier to complete. Your continued cooperation is GREATLY appreciated!

Bio-Link is on Facebook

Now you can keep up to date with your Bio-Link cohorts and avoid losing list serve messages in your e-mail box. Sign up for a Facebook account, join the Bio-Link group and you too can write on our wall and follow the news. Better yet, once you join, you can post a link to your biotech program and make it easy for us to visit you. Come one, come all!

Editor’s Note: Much thanks to Sandra Porter of Geospiza, Inc. who created our Facebook page!
2009 South Central Regional Meeting

The South Central Region of Bio-Link will be hosting their 2009 Regional meeting this year from May 29-31 at Bossier Parish Community College in Bossier City, Louisiana. At this meeting, participants will learn new skills and techniques, examine and test exemplary curriculum models and course material, engage in dialogue about ethical, legal, and social issues in biotechnology, and learn how to disseminate this information within their own regions. There is no registration fee and the participation form and tentative schedule may be found on Bio-Link’s homepage (www.bio-link.org). Participants are expected to implement new strategies into their own programs, to lead regional staff development activities, and provide prompt response to follow-up surveys.

Sixth Annual Community College Day

BIO 2009 International Convention
Omni at CNN Center Hotel
Atlanta, Georgia
Sunday May 17, 2009 • 8:00am - 5:00pm

A special offer comes from the Biotechnology Industry Organization to registrants of the Sixth Annual Community College Day. After you register for the Community College Day Program at BIO 2009, you will be sent a special code allowing you to register for three full days of access ($260 value) to the BIO 2009 Exhibition Hall.

Registration and more information on Bio-Link’s homepage (www.bio-link.org).

Southeast Regional Workshop News

On March 10, 2009 a joint partnership with Bio-Link, BioRad and Alamance Community College (ACC) offered a one-day workshop on real time PCR (aka, qPCR). Attendees included community college teachers from North Carolina and Virginia, and several second year students preparing for graduation from the AAS, Biotechnology degree program at ACC. Sherri Andrews, Curriculum and Training Specialist, East Coast representative of BioRad, presented background on the theory and concepts of real time PCR. Bill Woodruff, Bio-Link Southeast Regional Director and Department Head, Biotechnology, at ACC, presented on the different methodologies using qPCR, such as SYBRgreen dye technology v. fluorescent probes. He also reported on teaching applications using qPCR, including viral load determination, microarray confirmation and mycoplasma contamination of cell cultures, among others. Together the workshop leaders took the group through a successful hands-on exercise using the BioRad Crime Scene Investigator PCR Basics Kit: Real Time PCR Extension with preparation of the kit reaction mixture and programming of the BioRad MiniOpticon thermocycler. Comments gathered at the conclusion of the workshop indicated a successful learning experience for all.

Future Workshops:


Partnership with Bio-Link, North Carolina Biotechnology Center, Alamance Community College and Western Carolina University. Co-PI’s Wes Bond and Bill Woodruff will present using a yeast glycolytic enzyme system to measure gene expression in a system developed by Wes Bond. Interested parties may go to www.ncbiotech.org for more information. Seats are limited.


Partnership with Bio-Link, BioRad and Alamance Community College. This new product from BioRad is intended to take a class through 8 lab exercises, from cloning a gene to DNA sequencing (at a remote site with results published electronically). More information on this hands-on will be available on the Bio-Link Calendar page (www.biolink.org/calendar.htm).
Bio-Link is committed to program improvement, instructor enhancement, communication, program assistance, and supporting school-to-career activities in the biotechnology area.

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www.bio-link.org