



## **Biotechnology Industry Endorses Eight Community Colleges** ***First round of ratings meant to help connect students with jobs***

December 8, 2010— Eleven biotechnology degree or certificate programs at eight Massachusetts community colleges are training students with the skills and experiences they need to enter the biotechnology industry according to a new Massachusetts Life Science Education Consortium (MLSEC) endorsement program.

“These endorsements are the first step in the collaboration between industry and academia to raise the level of workforce preparedness and ensure Massachusetts’ economic future,” said Lance Hartford, Executive Director of MassBioEd. “This program addresses concerns related to biotechnology workforce development, one of Massachusetts’ economic engines. This is a model that can be applied to other industry clusters and to wider regional and national concerns for alignment between workforce needs and college graduate preparedness.”

MLSEC is a joint initiative between the MassBioEd Foundation and MassBio whose mission is to promote a coordinated approach to the development of the Massachusetts life sciences workforce through a partnership between the life sciences industry and higher education. The MLSEC Board of Directors includes representatives from the biotechnology industry and Massachusetts’ colleges. The consortium has worked with community colleges and industry to define the competencies biotechnology students need to transition into the workforce.

At the endorsement awards ceremony, state dignitaries’ recognized the value of the program. Joanne Goldstein, Secretary of Labor & Workforce Development said, “It is wonderful to see the collaboration between the private sector, the public sector and the community colleges. I would love to replicate this in other industries throughout the Commonwealth.”

All of the endorsed programs demonstrate that students completing required courses have achieved core competencies defined by MLSEC working with academia and industry. Endorsed programs must also be focused on the knowledge and skills required for entry level work in research and/or manufacturing settings. Gold Level programs have also established internship or cooperative experience as an integral program component.

(Over)

**The community colleges that received industry endorsement were:**

<b>Berkshire Community College</b> Associate in Arts - Biotechnology Concentration	Silver
<b>Bunker Hill Community College</b> Associate in Science - Biotechnology Option	Silver
<b>Middlesex Community College</b> Associate in Science - Biotechnology Technician Biotechnology Technician Certificate	Gold Gold
<b>Mount Wachusett Community College</b> Associate of Science in Biotechnology/Biomanufacturing Biotechnology/Biomanufacturing Certificate	Silver Silver
<b>Northern Essex Community College</b> Associate in Applied Science in Laboratory Science	Gold
<b>Quinsigamond Community College</b> Biotechnology Certificate	Gold
<b>Roxbury Community College</b> Associate of Science - Biotechnology Biotechnology/Biomanufacturing Certificate	Gold Gold
<b>Springfield Technical Community College</b> Associate of Science in Biotechnology	Silver

**About the MassBioEd Foundation**

<http://www.massbioed.org>

The Massachusetts Biotechnology Education Foundation (MassBioEd), founded in 2001, is a nonprofit charitable organization committed to supporting science and biotechnology education in Massachusetts through school programs, workforce training, and lifelong learning. Serving as a link between education, industry, and government, MassBioEd is working to ensure Massachusetts' biotechnology sector, has an appropriately trained work force to meet the growing employment needs. MassBioEd's BioTeach program provides professional development to over 500 teachers in their biotechnology curricula and provides grants and lab equipment to 179 schools across the Commonwealth. In addition, MassBioEd's BioTech Learning Center offers professional development courses for employees in the biotech sector to advance their professional skills.

**About MassBio**

[www.massbio.org](http://www.massbio.org)

The Massachusetts Biotechnology Council (MassBio), a not-for-profit organization that represents and provides services and support for the Massachusetts biotechnology industry, is the nation's oldest biotechnology trade association. Founded in 1985, MassBio is committed to advancing the development of critical new science, technology and medicines that benefit people worldwide. Representing over 600 biotechnology companies, academic institutions, research hospitals, and service organizations involved in life sciences and health care, the MassBio works to advance policy and promote education, while providing member programs and events, industry information, and services.