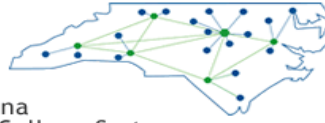


**BioNetwork**  
PREPARING A WORLD-CLASS BIOTECH WORKFORCE



North Carolina  
Community College System

**RELEASE: Immediate**  
**DATE: September 23<sup>th</sup>, 2008**

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**Charlotte BioBusiness hub consortium sketch out strategy for phase three after NCCCS BioNetwork grant award.**

**CHARLOTTE, NC.** – Today the Biotechnology and life science consortium made up of 8 at community colleges from the Charlotte region will meet to discuss the next steps for phase III of their funding from the NCCCS BioNetwork.

Already in place are the phase III project goals concentrated on the college's Small Business Centers helping business owners capitalize on the emerging biotechnology industry through product development, providing supplementary goods and services, and training needed in the market.

Phases I and II also funded through the BioNetwork Innovation Grant Program, consisting of eight community colleges covering 12 counties: Alexander, Anson, Cabarrus, Catawba, Cleveland, Gaston, Iredell, Lincoln, Mecklenburg, Rowan, Stanly and Union, conducted extensive research to identify and survey businesses that were either actively engaged in biotechnology and life science process or had the capacity to support the industry.

Matthew Meyer, BioNetwork Director said "Charlotte is a growing area in the Biotech field, with Kannapolis helping to build the momentum it is imperative that the NCCCS BioNetwork is there to support our colleges at this time of expansion."

Kathy Almond, Small Business Center Director at Stanley Community College recipient of the phase three grant from the NCCCS BioNetwork said "These are exciting times for the whole of the Charlotte region." Almond also added "This grant from the BioNetwork, will help our cluster



Dr. Scott Ralls, President

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of community colleges generate stronger ties to the life science industry and the further education of our communities about the possibilities available to them.”

About the BioNetwork:

BioNetwork is a cost effective, successful community college entity that connects community colleges across North Carolina. It provides the specialized training, curriculum and equipment necessary to develop a world-class workforce for the biomanufacturing, pharmaceutical manufacturing and the life science Industry. BioNetwork provides much-needed resources to community colleges to improve their capacity to meet the current and future workforce needs of this growing industry.

About the Charlotte region BioBusiness service hub:

The BioNetwork BioBusiness service hub provides business development support to start-up and small biotechnology and life science businesses in partnership with Community College-based Small Business Centers.

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