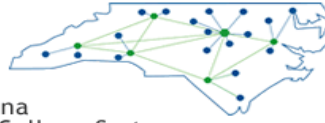


**BioNetwork**  
PREPARING A WORLD-CLASS BIOTECH WORKFORCE



 North Carolina  
Community College System

**RELEASE: Immediate**

**DATE: September 24th, 2008**

**CONTACT: Nick Meacham**

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**BioNetwork BioBusiness Center plays a hand in development of minority male student success**

Asheville, NC – The BioNetwork BioBusiness Center and its host college – Asheville-Buncombe Technical Community College today learned that it is one of 32 Community Colleges that received a NCCCS grant for male minority mentoring programs.

The grant will serve as a support mechanism for the male minority students who enrolled in degree programs at A-B Tech. The program that is built from this grant award will serve many more male minority students in years to come.

Paul Knott, curriculum coordinator for the BioNetwork BioBusiness Center, will provide program planning and mentor training skills for the Program. He will also be actively involved in creating pre- and posttests to measure participants' level of improvement.

Knott expressed his delight at being part of the development process for this grant. "The grant provides an exciting new opportunity to support greater student success and expand access to A-B Tech's excellent educational programs across our diverse community," Knott said.

Matthew Meyer, NCCCS BioNetwork Director said "I have always encouraged BioNetwork staff to develop good working relationships with our 58 community colleges in North Carolina. This is a wonderful example of the BioNetwork partnering with individual colleges in order to work for the good of the communities they serve."

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



Dr. Scott Ralls, President

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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.

For more information about the grant program contact: Paul Knott at 828.254.1921, x5844

email: [pknott@abtech.edu](mailto:pknott@abtech.edu). or Dr. Fox at 828-254-1921, x7664 email: [jfox@abtech.edu](mailto:jfox@abtech.edu)

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