

## **BIOCONNECT DE LAUNCHES TO STRENGTHEN DELAWARE'S LIFE SCIENCES WORKFORCE**

BioConnect DE, a vital new resource to strengthen Delaware's growing life science sector, launches this week as a catalyst for workforce development and industry engagement. Supported by the Delaware Center for Life Science Education and Training, a nonprofit created by the [Delaware BioScience Association](#), BioConnect DE will serve as a central hub for job seekers, employers and training programs to advance career pathways in the biosciences.

BioConnect DE's launch follows last year's [announcement](#) of a range of comprehensive new programs and investments to develop and deliver a science and technology talent pipeline.

The newly launched website, [www.bioconnectde.org](http://www.bioconnectde.org), serves as a go-to resource for job seekers, employers, and industry stakeholders. Designed to be a dynamic resource supporting Delaware's leadership in the bioscience sector, the platform will continue to evolve as new initiatives and opportunities develop.

### **Biomanufacturing Training Program – Applications Now Open!**

One of BioConnect DE's first major initiatives is the Biomanufacturing Training Program, designed to equip participants with the skills needed to secure high-quality careers in Delaware's life sciences sector. [Multiple reports](#) and Delaware Bio member surveys have identified the urgent need to invest in the development of a prepared and resilient workforce to ensure future industry growth. Developed in collaboration with leading employers, the program is tuition-free to accepted participants.

The 8-week course trains individuals for in-demand roles across manufacturing and operations that do not require a college degree. The BioConnect DE curriculum has been designed with input from local industry employers and national experts to ensure that students gain the skills employers' require in their state-of-the-art facilities. Participants will receive training in areas such as quality management systems, metrology, good documentation practices, and workplace safety.

The first cohort will begin in May 2025 at the Chemours STEM Hub at East Side Charter School. Applications are now being accepted through the BioConnect DE website.

<https://bioconnectde.org/biomanufacturing/>



## **STAR Fund – Supporting Recent Graduates in STEM Careers**

BioConnect DE is also playing a leading role in attracting and retaining top talent through the Delaware STEM Talent Advancement and Retention (STAR) Fund. Managed by the Delaware Division of Small Business in partnership with BioConnect DE, the STAR Fund offers up to \$6,000 in financial support to recent STEM graduates working for Delaware employers, helping to reduce student debt and keep these young workers in our state.

This initiative encourages graduates from Delaware Technical Community College, Delaware State University, the University of Delaware, and other accredited institutions to begin their professional careers in Delaware's thriving science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) sectors. By offering financial support for student loan payments, the STAR Fund aims to attract and retain top talent in Delaware, ensuring that the state continues to grow its workforce in key industries.

More details on the STAR Fund and how to apply can be found at [www.bioconnectde.org/star-fund](http://www.bioconnectde.org/star-fund).

## **A Growing Ecosystem for Life Sciences in Delaware**

The launch of BioConnect DE marks a significant milestone in the industry's commitment to growing its life sciences workforce and supporting industry expansion. As part of the new platform's rollout, the BioConnect DE team will be actively engaging with key stakeholders and partners to raise awareness and ensure access to the programs and resources available in communities across Delaware.

"We're thrilled to launch BioConnect DE as a key resource for workforce development and industry growth," said Katie Lakofsky, Executive Director of BioConnect DE. "A major focus of our efforts will be raising awareness of the rewarding careers in biomanufacturing, particularly among individuals and communities who may not have ever considered this path. By offering training opportunities, connecting job seekers with employers, and supporting recruitment and retaining efforts through the STAR Fund, we are strengthening Delaware's bioscience workforce and fostering a more robust industry ecosystem. "

For more information about BioConnect DE, the Biomanufacturing Training Program, or the STAR Fund, visit [www.bioconnectde.org](http://www.bioconnectde.org).



### **About BioConnect DE**

BioConnect DE was created to accelerate the engagement, training, and delivery of a robust life science workforce in Delaware. We equip Delawareans of all backgrounds with the skills and knowledge necessary to thrive in life science careers. As a cornerstone of workforce development, BioConnect DE strengthens local economic growth and supports the long-term success of the regional life sciences industry.

BioConnect DE was established through the Delaware Center for Life Science Education and Training, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit founded by the Delaware BioScience Association. It emerged from a collaboration among industry leaders, educational institutions, and government partners. DelawareBio played a key role in shaping this initiative, recognizing both an opportunity and an unmet need for life sciences workforce development in Delaware.

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