

**INSPIRING
WOMEN *in*
STEM**
Presented by Delaware Bio

2024-2025 END OF YEAR IMPACT REPORT

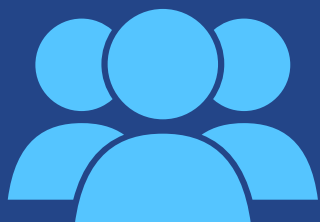
Life science careers start here—learn why.
Take a glance at what the BioConnect DE Team
has been up to this past year.

Dec. 31, 2025



BioConnect DE is the
FIRST-OF-ITS-KIND
non-profit life science
workforce development
initiative in **Delaware**,
designed to build the next
generation of life science
talent in Delaware.

Key Takeaways



Maintained
partnerships



Reached all 3
counties in DE



Received over 300
applicants for the
Biomanufacturing
Program



Graduated our inaugural cohort
for the Biomanufacturing Program

38%

Of the
Biomanufacturing
Program graduates
received job offers
upon graduating



Awarded total of \$99k in
student loan debt relief
through the STAR fund



Graduates were highly
satisfied with The
Program



Started wrap-around
services to support our
graduates

Biomanufacturing Program Update.

This project is supported through \$2.1M in Congressionally Directed Spending Funds. These monies help to support approximately 75% of the total costs of the program. The remainder of the program is supported by non-government funds.



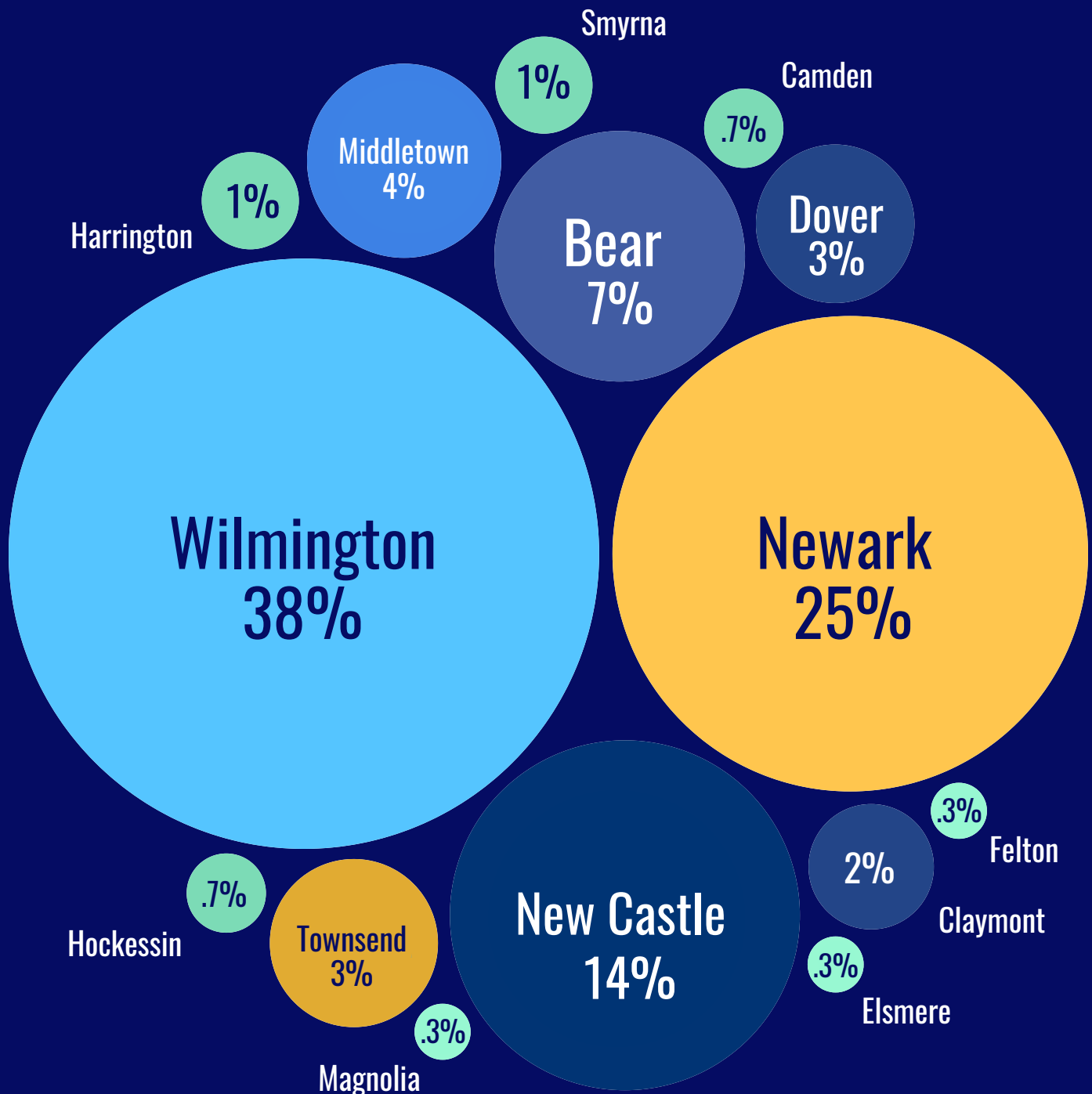
**“IT WAS A REALLY GREAT
EXPERIENCE. IT WAS FUN,
INTERESTING,
I DIDN’T MISS A DAY.
I JUST WANT TO SAY
THANK YOU**

**FOR THE OPPORTUNITY AND
FOR EXPOSING US TO
SOMETHING NEW. I REALLY
HOPE TO GROW IN THIS
FIELD.”**

**—LOVESHAWALTON
BIOMANUFACTURING PROGRAM GRADUATE**

Our Applicants Represent Delaware.

WE RECEIVED OVER 340 APPLICANTS IN YEAR ONE. 85% OF TOTAL APPLICANTS RESIDE IN DELAWARE.



Most Delaware Applicants Reside in New Castle County, our Target Demographic.

New Castle County

94%

6% Kent County



OUR INAUGURAL COHORT GRADUATED WITH A 96% SUCCESS RATE.

Katie Lakofsky, Ed.D.



MEET OUR PROGRAM GRADUATES



© Delaware Life
Science Center for
Education &
Training.
2025 End of Year
Impact Report

LAUNCHING CAREERS IN LIFE SCIENCE

We Evidenced our Commitment to Growing Delaware's Life Science Workforce from the Ground up.

36% OF INAUGURAL COHORT RECEIVED A JOB OFFER OR PROMOTION UPON GRADUATING



**“It was a great opportunity to learn,
meet new people, and grow. I hope
this program continues to open doors
for people across Delaware.”**

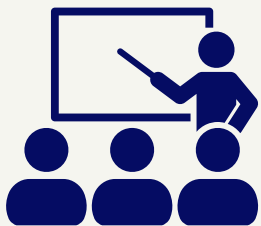
—Metehan Cebeci,
Biomanufacturing Program Graduate



ASTRAZENECA TOUR



Students report touring a biomanufacturing facility and seeing the plant in action helps them:



Solidify concepts from the course



Better understand how to interact with hiring managers



Visualize their own careers

GRADUATES REQUEST WRAP-AROUND SUPPORT SERVICES

Data collected from 14 out of 24 students (10 graduates did not respond to survey request).

43%

JOB SEARCH & PLACEMENT

25%

INTERVIEW PREP

14%

NETWORKING & REFERENCES

7%

RESUME/COVER LETTERS

Interested in helping us support our graduates?

[Click here to partner with us!](#)

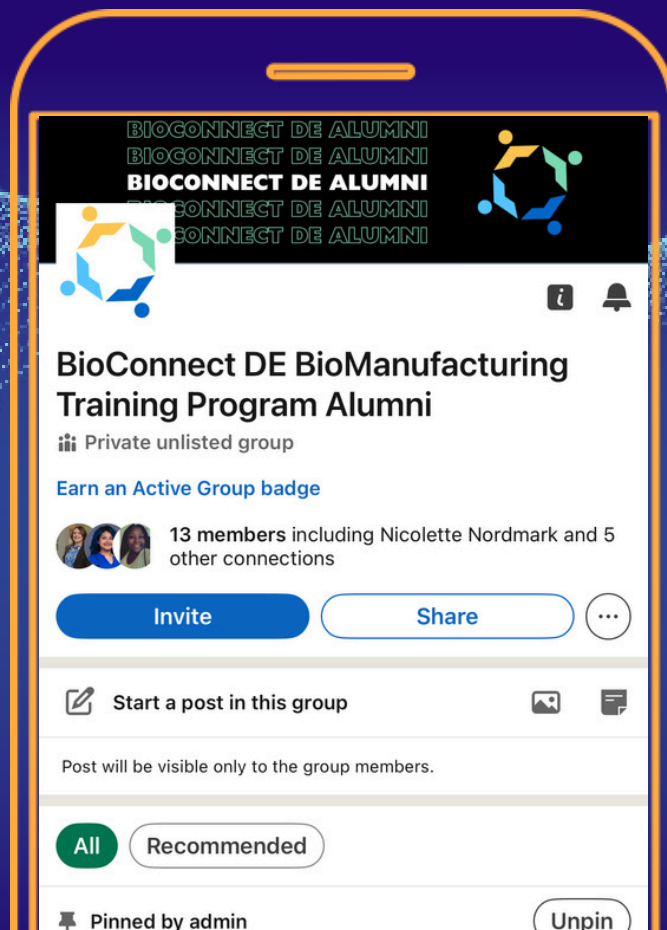
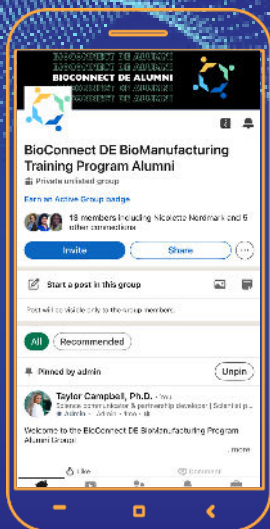
We started a private LinkedIn Group where graduates:

Stay connected

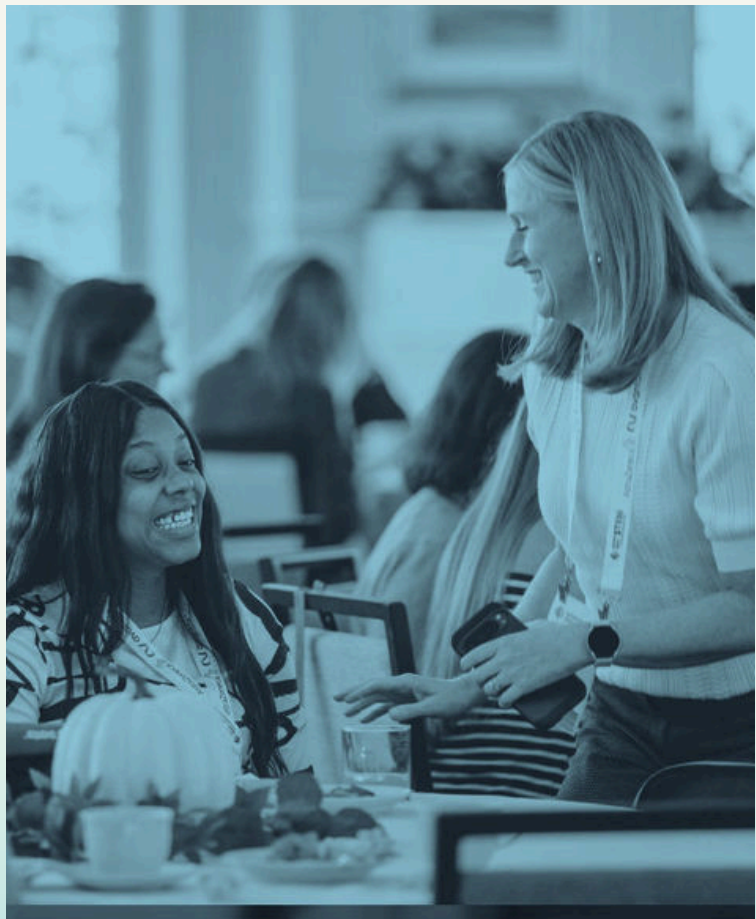
Find resume & interview tips

Peruse curated job postings

Learn about exclusive hiring opportunities



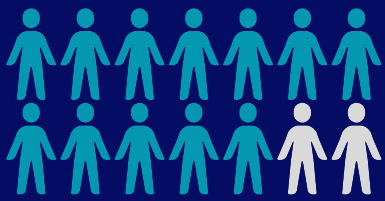
Alumni from our first cohort attended The Delaware Bioscience Association's IWSTEM Conference to network, share updates, and celebrate how far they have come.



“I did not know anything about biomanufacturing, but I was eager to learn. This program gave me self-confidence, better communication, and patience. I didn't even know this field existed, but now I'm excited about what comes next.”

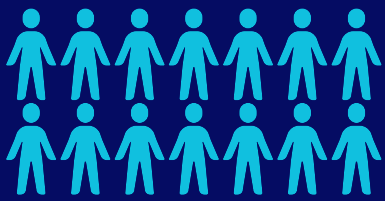
**—Keneisha McIntosh,
Biomanufacturing Program Graduate**

Graduates are Highly Satisfied with the Program.



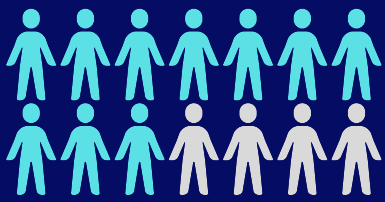
85%

of graduates rated the program overall as **excellent**.



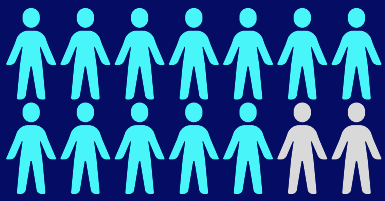
100%

of graduates rated the instructor quality as **excellent**.



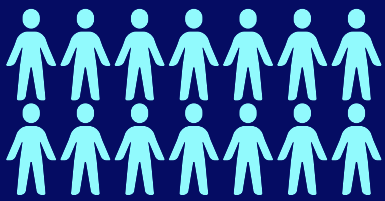
71%

of graduates rated the quality of topics as **excellent**.



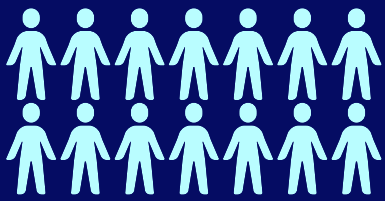
85%

of graduates rated the quality of guest speakers as **excellent**.



100%

of graduates said they would **recommend** this course to friends & family.



100%

of graduates said they would serve as **ambassadors** for this course.

STAR FUND Update.



THANKS TO BIOCONNECT DE'S
STAR FUND, I HAVE RECEIVED
ASSISTANCE PAYING OFF MY
STUDENT LOANS I ACQUIRED
DURING MY

BACHELOR'S DEGREE.

GETTING MY DEGREE WAS SO

IMPORTANT TO ME,

BUT THE LOANS CAN SEEM

INTIMIDATING

FOR GRADUATING STUDENTS.

WITH THE HELP OF THE STAR

FUND, I CAN GET PEACE OF

MIND KNOWING

MY EDUCATION IS VALUED

AND SUPPORTED.

—SARAH LATORRE

2025 STAR FUND RECIPIENT

QPS

Our STAR Fund Recipients Represent Delaware's STEM Workforce.

Univeristy
of
Delaware

Applied
Control
Engineering

Christiana
Care

ABS
Bio

Nemours
Childrens
Health

Lectrolyst

PAQ
Solutions

Digital
Delmarva

What is the STAR Fund?

The **STEM Talent Advancement and Retention** (STAR) Fund was created to **incentivize, retain, and attract** higher education graduates employed or considering **employment in STEM fields in Delaware** by providing reimbursement of higher education loans.



[Learn more
here!](#)

★ Selected 20 STAR Fund Recipients ★

DELAWARE STEM TALENT ADVANCEMENT & RETENTION

TOTALING \$99K IN
STUDENT LOAN DEBT



AWARDEES
REPRESENTED ALL THREE
DELAWARE COUNTIES

AWARDEE EDUCATION RANGED
FROM ASSOCIATE'S TO ADVANCED
POST-GRAD DEGREES

8 Bachelor's

6 Master's

5 PhDs

1 Associate's

THE STAR FUND IS MADE
POSSIBLE BY THE
STATE OF DELAWARE'S
STRONG COMMITMENT
TO INVESTING IN A
CONNECTED, COMPETITIVE
STEM WORKFORCE
IN DELAWARE.

THANK YOU TO THE
DELAWARE DIVISION OF
SMALL BUSINESS FOR
SUPPORTING A GROWING
WORKFORCE.



RECEIVED 90 APPLICATIONS,
REPRESENTING

\$1.9 MILLION IN

STUDENT LOAN DEBT



KEEP UP WITH US IN THE NEW YEAR!

Follow us on Social!



Thank you to our partners, whose expertise, collaboration, and commitment to workforce development are essential to the success of the Biomanufacturing Program. Your continued support of our students strengthens our ability to deliver high-quality training to the next generation of biomanufacturing professionals in Delaware.

Sign up for our Newsletter!



Katie Lakofsky, Ed.D.
Executive Director

Taylor Campbell, Ph.D.
Manager of Partnerships &
Workforce



We thank you for your continued support in our programs.

BioConnect DE
New Castle County, DE
www.bioconnectde.org
info@bioconnectde.org