

WIRED INITIATIVE MAKES IMPACT ON REGION'S LIFE SCIENCE INDUSTRY **The Delaware Valley Innovation Network (DVIN)**

The Greater Philadelphia region is home to a diverse and vibrant life science industry that delivers innovative science and economic vitality to the region. Of course, without a workforce both talented and trained to meet the needs of the evolving life science industry, the future success of this dynamic industry may be impacted.

That's why the Delaware Valley Innovation Network (DVIN) plays such a pivotal role in helping to ensure the life sciences in the tri-state region remain world-class. Since its inception in 2005, DVIN has become a successful model for regional economic growth and a catalyst for ongoing collaborative efforts between industry, academia, government, and workforce and economic development agencies. Through both collaboration and the realization that our region shares a common resource: our workforce, DVIN is working to strengthen the region's competitive position in the life sciences on a national and global scale.

"DVIN represents a unique model of workforce development in the region," said Kelly Lee, DVIN Chair and President and CEO of Innovation Philadelphia. "While the tri-state area has strong regional economic development agencies like Select Philadelphia and Ben Franklin Technology Partners, until the formation of a Workforce Innovation in Regional Economic Development (WIRED) initiative, the region lacked an entity dedicated solely to workforce development on a regional scale. DVIN has filled an important void with our collaborative efforts of economic development."

"From the onset, DVIN was uniquely designed to be truly innovative because we are able to respond to the needs of industry. "Whether it's the movement from large life science companies to medium- and small- size life science companies or the recent impact of the economic downturn," said Helen Groft, DVIN Project Director. "Through our Innovation Investment Grants, which promote industry and workforce training, we are pleased to help those individuals who are employed in the life science industry, or want to be, obtain new skills through training."

To date, DVIN has awarded more than \$2.3 million in Innovation Investment Grants to projects across the region. All innovation investments are regional, involve partnerships in all three states and leverage resources.

In April, DVIN allocated its largest grant to date, \$1.3 million Innovation Investment Grant to support and launch the Worker Skills Upgrading Stimulus Initiative, a collaborative effort between 13 regional Workforce Investment Boards (WIBs) for job training that will help unemployed workers get back to work.

DVIN continues to respond to industry needs through its Innovation Investment Grants program. Other notable projects funded by DVIN include:

- * A new Campus Philly Internship Initiative Program in the Life Sciences will connect college students in the Greater Philadelphia region to internships and employment opportunities in the life science industry.

- * The University of Delaware will develop the first Professional Science Master's degree program available to both full and part-time students. The program will cater to employed professionals working in the biotechnology industry in the Delaware Valley region.

- *BioStrategy Partners, in collaboration with several community colleges in the region, will present "The Life Science Leadership Forum" project, which will boost the business skills of scientific founders of companies and network them into the broader life sciences community to

improve their chances of reaching the next level of commercialization.

In addition to the Innovation Investment Grants, DVIN continues to support the life science industry and its current and future workforce through targeted efforts, including the region's first comprehensive Talent Gap Analysis Report that is helping the region assess how the talent needs of its life science industry are changing and how its workforce must adapt to remain competitive in the 21st century.

DVIN remains a successful and unique model for economic development in the region, and through ongoing collaboration, DVIN and its partners will continue to build the region's life science workforce talent together.

For more information on Innovation Investment Grants, the Talent Gap Analysis Report or DVIN, go to www.delawarevalleyinnovationnetwork.com.