



KansasBio Secures Partnership with the Biotechnology Institute and the International BioGENEius Challenge

Engaging future scientists in cutting edge biotechnology research

“The BioGENEius program gave me the confidence to pursue a career in research. I am planning to continue my study of engineering in a Ph.D. program next year. My research will focus on biologically inspired and designed materials. I think that programs like BioGENEius are essential to the development of future scientists.”

– 2005 International BioGENEius Finalist

KansasBio, in partnership with the Biotechnology Institute, will operate the Kansas BioGENEius Challenge in March and April 2011, and will send three winning entrants to the National competition in Washington, D.C., in June 2011 prior to the BIO Convention.



➤ *At right: A biotech student at Olathe North High School, Olathe, Kan.
(Photo courtesy of Randy Dix, biotech program director)*

The International BioGENEius Challenge is the only U.S. based international high school student competition in biotechnology. Students develop independent research projects with the advice of mentors from local institutions of higher learning, companies, or their schools, according to the rules of the International Science and Engineering Fairs (ISEF). In the past, many of these projects have been developed for both the International BioGENEius Challenge and the ISEF Competition. The Kansas BioGENEius competition offers additional opportunities to recognize outstanding projects and inducements for more students to develop biotechnology projects, and will expose students to real-world projects within Kansas bioscience companies.

Goals for the Kansas competition:

- 1) To encourage many more students to undertake biotechnology research projects,
- 2) To increase awareness of biotechnology advances and industry opportunities locally, and
- 3) To provide local competitors support to compete in the premier biotechnology research competition in Washington for more than \$55,000 in prizes and awards.

In Washington, D.C., local winners will present their work to top biotech industry leaders and world class scientists, and finalists will receive their awards on stage at the BIO keynote luncheon in front of thousands of leading representatives of industry. In the past, such experiences have been life-changing events in the academic development of these talented future scientists.