

Montgomery College Biotech Boot Camp Provides Up-to-Date Skills to Grow the Biotech Workforce

A partnership of Montgomery College, and WorkSource Montgomery, and the state of Maryland's EARN



grant program offers a 4-week biotech boot camp to meet the skill acquisition needs of county residents, and the talent needs of the local biotech industry. Montgomery College's BioTrain program, funded by an EARN grant extends the free-of-cost, MC Biotech Boot Camp from December 12-22, 2022 & January 9-20, 2023, from (5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.) at the Germantown Campus. MC Biotech Boot Camp is ideal for those who seek a new career, change of career, or those who are unemployed. The industry-reviewed lecture and hands-on laboratory workshops provide

intensive skill-set training for entry-level biomanufacturing jobs. After successful completion of the Boot Camp training, the participants will be coached through a resume writing/interview preparation workshop to enter the biotech market. Currently, the companies that confirmed their participation in the boot camp are Millipore Sigma, AstraZeneca, Quality Biological, and ORIGene.

WorkSource Montgomery is providing two different incentives to support the transition of boot camp graduates to biotech firms. An incentive for companies called Grant Relief for Onboarding Workers (GROW), provides \$10,000 per full-time hire of a Montgomery County resident and \$5,000 per part-time hire of a Montgomery County resident. A quick assessment of eligibility can be checked at <https://form.jotform.com/222996887174072>. The companies can hire up to 10 new Montgomery County residents for \$100,000 while funds last. Application for GROW can be accessed at <https://worksourcemontgomery.com/covid-19-recovery/grow-grant>

Another incentive, on-the-job training (OJT), provides a subsidy of up to \$25/hour for 3 months depending on the size of the employer and personal infrastructure support (for transportation and other expenses enabling one to work).

MC Biotech Boot Camp training of under and unemployed workers prepares them with the necessary hands-on skills to fill laboratory positions with cutting-edge companies. These prospects are a win-win-win as the employer gains the necessary workforce and the bootcamp graduates are presented with possible interview opportunities to secure a job, and thereby promoting a sustainable workforce and job growth for the biotech industry in the county.

Background about BioTrain: The BioTrain program, based on an EARN grant from the MD Department of Labor/Commerce at Montgomery College, is focused on preparing the workforce to address the dynamic skill demands of the biotechnology industry. The program is designed to provide a boost to both employees (existing and potential) and employers. Free of cost, the short lectures, workshops, and hands-on training in this program are taught by experts in the field. The employer's need to train their existing employees via customized training/workshops to enhance employee skills (technical and Emotional Quotient) is ascertained through initial bilateral discussions.

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Details about BioTrain: <https://www.montgomerycollege.edu/workforce-development-continuing-education/biotechnology/biotrain/index.html>

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