

Massachusetts Life Sciences Workforce Conference 2022

MassBioEd's
7th Annual Conference

June 8, 2022
Framingham State University
Framingham, MA

www.MassBioEd.org

#LSWC22



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MassBioEd
MASSACHUSETTS BIOTECHNOLOGY EDUCATION FOUNDATION



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**Building and Sustaining
a Diverse and Talented
Life Sciences Workforce.**



MassBioEd *Upcoming Events*

October 27, 2022

**7th Annual Champions for Biotechnology Education
Awards Reception**

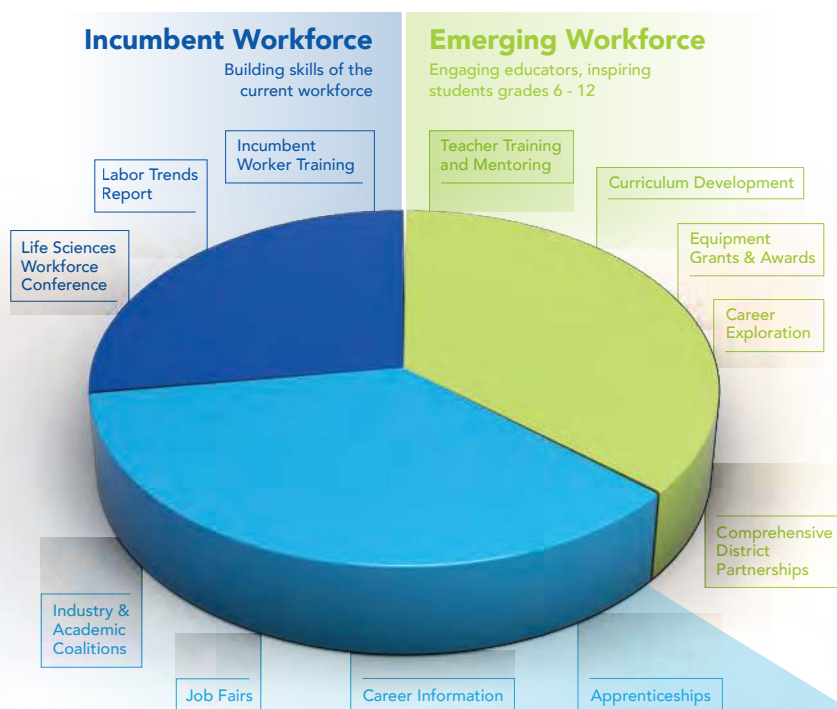
About the Massachusetts Biotechnology Education Foundation (MassBioEd)

Our mission is to build a sustainable life sciences workforce in the region through educational programs that engage and excite teachers, inspire and propel students, and illuminate the pathway from the classroom to career with a focus on expansion, opportunity, and diversity.

MassBioEd was founded in 2001 by the Massachusetts Biotechnology Council with the goal of growing and developing talent in the life sciences workforce through educational programming.

Through our programs we aim to educate the next generation of science leaders, introduce individuals to potential careers, and cultivate a field of experts who are diverse, well-educated, and committed to solving the world's most vexing challenges. We inspire the future workforce by promoting authentic science in the classrooms. We also help educators, professionals, and companies navigate the life sciences industry by tracking workforce trends and providing insights into the industry's growth and evolution. Our programs create avenues for individuals to find their way into strong, financially secure careers in the life sciences.

Our programs serve the emerging, imminent, and incumbent workforce.



Conference Agenda

9:00 am

Welcome and Introduction

Dr. F. Javier Cevallos
President, Framingham State University

Christopher Murphy
MassBioEd Chair and Vice President/General Manager, Viral Vector Services,
Thermo Fisher Scientific

Sunny Schwartz
Chief Executive Officer, MassBioEd

9:20 am

2022 Massachusetts Life Sciences Employment Outlook *Labor Supply Dilemma*

John Brothers
Senior Director of Workforce Development Strategy, MassBioEd

9:40 am

Understanding How Life Sciences Can Access the Current Labor Market

Moderator:

Secretary Rosalin Acosta
Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development

Emily Greenhagen
Head of Deployment, Gingko Bioworks

Alicia Sasser Modestino, Ph.D.
Associate Professor, School of Public Policy & Urban Affairs
and Department of Economics; Research Director, Dukakis Center
for Urban and Regional Policy, Northeastern University

10:35 am

Networking

10:50 am

2022 Massachusetts Life Sciences Employment Outlook *Talent Solutions*

John Brothers
Senior Director of Workforce Development Strategy, MassBioEd

11:10 am

What Life Sciences Can Learn From How Massachusetts Overcame Vaccine Hesitancy in Diverse Communities

Moderator:

Gretchen Cook-Anderson
Executive Director, LabCentral Ignite

Thea James, M.D.
Vice President of Mission and Associate Chief Medical Officer, Boston Medical Center

Petrina Martin Cherry
Vice President of Community Engagement and External Affairs,
Boston Medical Center

Lily Vautour
Director, Brand Engagement, Boston Medical Center

Conference Agenda

11:10 am

Roundtable Discussions

Facilitated by Industry, Academics, and Government Leaders

12:20 pm

Lunch and Networking

1:20 pm

2022 Massachusetts Life Sciences Workforce Analysis Report

Joe Boncore

Chief Executive Officer, MassBio

1:50 pm

Remarks from MassBioEd CEO

Sunny Schwartz

Chief Executive Officer, MassBioEd

2:00 pm

Breakout Sessions

Choose one session below to attend.

Topic A | Inclusion, Retention, and Advancement

Moderator:

Jeanne LeClair

Senior Director of Business Development and Workforce Partnerships,
Massachusetts Life Sciences Center

Ross Marshall

Senior Director of DEI Advisory, MassBio, Moderator

Rizwana Seeham

Senior Manager, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion and
GMP Quality Assurance, Blueprint Medicines

Diana Cruz Solash

Vice President Talent, Inclusion, Diversity & Equity, Vertex Pharmaceuticals

Topic B | Recruitment: Education to Training to Industry

Moderator:

Renée Landers, J.D.

Professor of Law and Faculty Director, Health and Biomedical Law Concentration
and Master of Science in Law: Life Sciences program, Suffolk University

Laurie Halloran

President and Chief Executive Officer, Halloran Consulting Group, Moderator

Irene Porro, Ph.D.

Director at McAuliffe Center for Integrated Science Learning,
Framingham State University

Philip J. Sisson

President, Middlesex Community College

Rita Smith

Regional Business HR – US/PR Pharma, AbbVie

3:00 pm

Dessert Reception

Speaker Biographies



Secretary Rosalin Acosta

**Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development,
Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

Secretary Acosta manages the Commonwealth's workforce development and labor departments to ensure that workers, employers, and the unemployed have the tools, training, and safety resources needed to succeed in the Massachusetts economy. Secretary Acosta also Chairs the Workforce Skills Cabinet alongside the Secretary of Education and the Secretary of Housing and Economic Development. Prior to joining the Baker-Polito Administration, Secretary Acosta was a widely respected financial and banking service professional with over thirty years of experience in Greater Boston financial institutions. Secretary Acosta was a Director and Planning Committee Member of the Merrimack Valley Workforce Investment Board and was appointed a Northern Essex Community College Trustee by Governor Baker. She has been named one of Boston's Most Influential Women by the women of the Harvard Club, and El Planeta's Top 100 Most Influential Hispanics in Massachusetts. She has also been awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Association for Latino Professionals for America (ALPFA). Born in Cuba, she earned a Bachelor of Arts from Wesleyan University in Connecticut where she was a member of the Women's Varsity Ice Hockey Team. She is the proud mother of five children.



Joseph Boncore

Chief Executive Officer, MassBio

In the role of CEO, Joe manages MassBio's federal affairs, state and municipal government relations, and leads on initiatives to sustain Massachusetts' economic competitiveness focusing on issues around infrastructure, workforce, and digital health. Prior to joining MassBio in September 2021, Joe served as the State Senator for the First Suffolk and Middlesex districts, representing his hometown of Winthrop. While in the State Senate, Joe was the Chair of the Joint Committee on Transportation, Chair of the Senate's Committee on Personnel and Administration, Chair of the Joint Committee on Housing, Vice Chair of Rules, and member of the Senate Ways and Means Committee, Senate Ethics Committee, Committee on Bonding, Capital Expenditures and State Assets, and the Committee on Financial Services. Before being elected to the state legislature in 2016, Joe practiced law specializing in criminal law in his private practice and as a public defender with Suffolk Lawyers for Justice. Since his early life, Boncore has been an active member in the Order Sons of Italy in America, he is currently the National Second Vice President. Boncore earned his bachelor's degree in political science and government from Providence College in 2004 and received his juris doctorate from the Massachusetts School of Law. Joe resides in Winthrop with his wife Christine and twin sons John and Philip.



John Brothers

Senior Director of Workforce Development Strategy, MassBioEd

As Senior Director of Workforce Development Strategy, John works closely with stakeholders across the Massachusetts Life Sciences Industry, academic institutions, and workforce development partners to develop and implement strategies that result in an expanded pipeline with more diverse talent entering the sector. Before joining MassBioEd in 2021, he served as Executive Director of Training, Inc. and the International Learning Center, programs of the YMCA of Greater Boston, where he built partnerships and employer relationships to support job training and adult education. Previously, he was the Executive Director of Quincy Asian Resources for 12 years, serving the growing immigrant community south of Boston through college and career readiness and mentoring programs, adult English education and workforce programs, and community partnerships. John holds a B. A. in International Affairs from American University and a Certificate in Nonprofit Management and Leadership from the Questrom School of Business at Boston University.

Speaker Biographies



Dr. F. Javier Cevallos
President, Framingham State University

Dr. Cevallos was born in Cuenca, Ecuador and his family moved to Puerto Rico when he was 14. Dr. Cevallos earned his bachelor's degree in 1976 at the University of Puerto Rico at Mayagüez. From Puerto Rico, he moved to Illinois where he earned his master's and doctoral degrees in 1978 and 1981, respectively, from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. His area of research is Latin American literature, with particular emphasis in the Colonial era. He began his career in education in 1981 as an assistant professor of Spanish at the University of Maine at Orono. In 1984, he moved to the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, where he was promoted to associate professor in 1988 and to full professor in 1992. In 1994, he was asked to serve as faculty advisor to the provost. In 1996 he was selected as a Fellow by the American Council on Education (ACE) and spent his fellowship at Wesleyan University, in Middletown, Connecticut. Upon his return to UMass, Cevallos became chair of the Department of Spanish and Portuguese. Soon after, he was appointed Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, a post he held until 2002, when he became President of Kutztown University in Pennsylvania for many years, until beginning his tenure as President of Framingham State University in 2014.



Gretchen Cook-Anderson
Executive Director, LabCentral Ignite

Gretchen Cook-Anderson is an award-winning marketing/communications executive with over 28 years promoting the sciences, global education, political candidates and major household products. In her current role, she leads efforts at the first-and-only-of-its-kind platform that's addressing systemic racial, gender and other underrepresentation in talent across the life sciences and the biotech industry – from labs to leadership, and from the STEM student pipeline to the entrepreneurs advancing life-changing innovations. Ignite was launched in early 2021 by LabCentral, a preeminent early-stage biotech startup accelerator, as a forward-thinking, equity-driven way to support the workforce needs of the industry. Gretchen was honored in October 2020 among the inaugural 50 Most Influential Businesspersons of Color by the Newton-Needham Chamber of Commerce (MetroWest region). She was also recognized in February 2021 by the Massachusetts Legislature as a Black Excellence on The Hill honoree. She is active as a board/advisory member for several organizations including Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, WorldBoston, Facing History & Ourselves, and the Japan-US Friendship Commission, and independent schools (Belmont Hill School & Dana Hall School). Gretchen is an alumna of Spelman College (BA), of The Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies (dual MA), and of Harvard University's Executive Education Leading Difference for High Performance program.



Emily Greenhagen
Head of Deployment, Ginkgo Bioworks

Emily Greenhagen has 17 years of experience serving the bioeconomy, leading development and successful commercialization across a range of organisms and applications. After earning her bachelor's degree in biology from MIT, she joined Microbia (now DSM) as a molecular biologist. While at Microbia, she moved into fermentation process development and has since contributed to development of over 10 different processes across five different organisms at Microbia, and then biofuels companies Qteros and Novogy. Emily joined Ginkgo Bioworks in April of 2015 to establish Ginkgo's fermentation team, and moved into her current role as Head of Deployment in the summer of 2017. The Deployment team serves as the technical bridge from R&D to successful commercialization, and includes Upstream Process Development, Downstream Process Development, Quality Control & Analytical Development, and late-stage Project Management. Emily also serves on the external advisory board for Penn State's Center of Excellence in Industrial Biotechnology.



Laurie Halloran

President and CEO, Halloran Consulting Group, Inc.

Laurie Halloran founded Halloran Consulting Group in 1998. Since its humble beginnings, Halloran has grown into a leading consultancy of like-minded experts who are dedicated to improving human health by making life science companies better at what they do. As a passionate advocate for workforce development and women in leadership, Laurie started early in her career with these efforts as she established and developed Worldwide Training capabilities within Clinical Operations at PAREXEL International Corporation during the 10 years of the company's rapid growth into a leading international Contract Research Organization. Laurie has been named 2018 Women's Business Enterprise Star by the Women's Business Enterprise National Council (WBENC) and has won a 2017 Enterprising Women of the Year Award from Enterprising Women Magazine. Halloran Consulting Group was also named an Inc. 5000 Fastest Growing Company for the past five years in a row. In 2015, Laurie was honored by the Boston Business Journal as a Woman of Influence, in 2010 was selected as one of the 100 Most Inspiring People in Life Science by PharmaVoice, and in 2009, she was awarded Clinical Researcher of the Year by the New England Chapter of the Association of Clinical Research Professionals. Laurie lectures at Boston University Medical School and the Tufts Center for Drug Development Post-Graduate program. She has previously taught at George Washington University and Harvard University. Laurie earned a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Russell Sage College and a Master of Science in Management from Lesley University. She is also a Prosci Certified Change Practitioner.



Thea James, M.D.

Vice President of Mission and Associate Chief Medical Officer, Boston Medical Center (BMC), Director of BMC Violence Intervention Advocacy Program and Associate Professor of Emergency Medicine at Boston University School of Medicine

Dr. James has primary responsibility for coordinating and maximizing BMC's relationships and strategic alliances with local, state, and national organizations to foster innovative and effective models of care that are essential for patients and communities to thrive. Integrating upstream interventions into BMC's clinical care models are critical in achieving equity and health. Dr. James served on the Massachusetts Board of Registration in Medicine 2009-2012 as chair of the Licensing Committee. As the Supervising Medical Officer on the Boston Disaster Medical Assistance Team under the Department of Health and Human Services, Dr. James has deployed to New York City post 9/11; New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina in 2005; Bam, Iran after the 2003 earthquake; and Port-Au-Prince, Haiti after the 2010 earthquake. She is a member of the Board of Directors of Equal Health, an organization that supports sustainable medical and nursing education systems in Haiti. She was awarded the Boston Public Health Commission's 2008 Mulligan Award for public service; the Suffolk County District Attorney's 2012 Role Model Award, and the Schwartz Center 2014 Compassionate Care Award. She received The Boston Business Journal Healthcare Hero Award in 2012 and 2015. The Boston Chamber of Commerce awarded Dr. James the Pinnacle Award in 2015 and she was a 2019 Massachusetts Public Health Association Health Equity Champion. In 2020, Dr. James received the American College of Emergency Medicine Lifetime Achievement Award; a History Maker Award from The History Project; and the inaugural Thea James Social Emergency Medicine Award from the American College of Emergency Physicians. A graduate of Georgetown University School of Medicine, Dr. James trained in Emergency Medicine at Boston City Hospital, where she was a chief resident.



Renée M. Landers, J.D.

Professor of Law, Suffolk University Law School, and Faculty Director, Health and Biomedical Law Concentration and the Master of Science in Law Life Sciences program

Renée M. Landers was a Distinguished Visiting Fellow at the National Academy of Social Insurance during her fall 2018 sabbatical leave. President of the Boston Bar Association in 2003-2004, she was the first woman of color and the first law professor to serve in that position. She has worked in private practice and served as Deputy General Counsel for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and as Deputy Assistant Attorney General in the Office of Policy Development at the U.S. Department of Justice during the Clinton Administration. Currently, she is co-chair of the Section's Diversity Committee and is a member of the group that created the Section's fellowship program to help nontraditional candidates enter legal academia. In June 2020, she was elected chair of the board of Planned Parenthood League of Massachusetts. An elected member of the National Academy of Social Insurance since 2008, she is President of the NASI Board of

Directors. Landers was a member of NASI's study panels on Strengthening Medicare's Role in Reducing Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities and on Health Insurance Exchanges and Changing the Medicare Eligibility Age, and currently is co-chair of the Study Panel on Economic Security. Professor Landers has served as the president of the boards of Big Sister Association of Greater Boston, the Shady Hill School, the Harvard Board of Overseers, and has also served on the board of WGBH and the Board of Overseers of Geisel School of Medicine at Dartmouth. She was named among the "2020 Top Women of Law" by Massachusetts Lawyers Weekly. In November 2018 she was elected a Fellow of the ABA Section of Administrative Law and Regulatory Practice and was named a Senior Fellow of the Section in 2021, the Section's highest recognition.



Jeanne LeClair

**Senior Director of Business Development and Workforce Partnerships,
Massachusetts Life Sciences Center (MLSC)**

Jeanne joined the MLSC in October 2020 and currently serves as the Senior Director of Business Development and Workforce Partnerships. In this role, she develops and executes strategies to enhance life sciences job growth in the Commonwealth by building relationships with key industry stakeholders, workforce training partners, and public agencies. Prior to joining MLSC, Jeanne served as the Economic Development Director for the Gateway Hiltown Collaborative, a pilot program unifying community development efforts in six small towns in Western Massachusetts. Jeanne earned her BA from Boston University, and worked at the Cambridge-based political magazine Boston Review. She received her Masters in Public Policy and Masters in Business Administration from the Heller School for Social Policy and Management at Brandeis University, where she focused her efforts on entrepreneurship, economic justice, and community development. After graduate school, she worked at the Boston Public Market in a variety of roles including business operations. Jeanne originally hails from the small town of Clarksville, Missouri where she grew up on a working farm. She enjoys playing music, collecting vintage NASA memorabilia, and running with her Sheprador.



Ross Marshall

Senior Director of DEI Advisory, MassBio

Ross Marshall is a DEI strategist experienced in designing, building, and leading measurable and scalable D&I-focused programs and initiatives for complex organizations. As Senior Director of Diversity Advisory, Ross is building, launching, and operating a DEI advisory enterprise for MassBio members that are seeking next-level DEI strategic consulting. In addition, he will work in conjunction with the MassBio Edge team to build awareness and create opportunities for MassBio members to launch and scale their supplier diversity programs. Prior to joining the MassBio team, Ross was a founding Partner of DEI Partners where he harnessed the power of analytics to empower a smarter, data-driven DEI strategy. Ross brings experience articulating a vision, translating it into executable strategy, and driving cross-functional teams to deliver in alignment with D&I strategy.



Petrina Martin Cherry

Vice President of Community Engagement and External Affairs, Boston Medical Center

Petrina Martin Cherry is a marketing and healthcare executive with over 25 years of experience specializing in marketing strategy, healthcare marketing, community program development and community engagement. Clients and partners rely on her to help them compete and interact more effectively on a global basis by creating and accelerating relationships with communities, customers, employees, partners, media and other influencers. Petrina has also done significant advocacy work creating community based programs to bring awareness to health equity, Sickle Cell Disease, promote mental health and wellness in urban communities, reduce recidivism and influence successful reentry and to build equity instead of charity in previously red-lined communities. Petrina has shared her expertise on healthcare, building healthier communities, criminal justice reform, and building inclusive spaces on numerous panels and to business groups and associations. She was appointed by Mayor Marty Walsh in 2020 to the COVID-19 Health Inequities Task Force and is on the board of trustees for The Urban League of Eastern MA (Emeritus), The Boys and Girls Club of Boston, Boston Arts Academy (BAA). The advisory board of Arts Emerson at Emerson College, and is the Co-Chair of the Women's Forum for the National Association of Healthcare Executives (NAHSE). She is an active member of The Links Inc. and Delta Sigma Theta Inc. Petrina holds an Executive MBA from Georgia State University's J. Mack Robinson School of Business.



Alicia Sasser Modestino, Ph.D.

Associate Professor, School of Public Policy & Urban Affairs and Department of Economics; Research Director, Dukakis Center for Urban and Regional Policy, Northeastern University

Alicia Sasser Modestino is also a Research Fellow at the Harvard Kennedy School's Woman and Public Policy Program, a Nonresident Fellow at the Brookings Institution's Metropolitan Policy Program, and an Affiliated Researcher of the Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL) at MIT.

Previously, Dr. Modestino was a Senior Economist at the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston where she led numerous research projects on regional economic and policy issues for over a decade. Dr. Modestino's current research focuses on labor and health economics including youth development, changing employer skill requirements, childcare, and the opioid crisis. Much of her research is interdisciplinary and involves large-scale empirical evaluations to determine underlying causal relationships using a variety of data, methods, and techniques. She has amassed over \$8 million in external funding, including grants from the Arnold Foundation, J-PAL, the National Science Foundation, the Russell Sage Foundation, the Spencer Foundation, the Social Innovation Fund, and the William T. Grant Foundation. Her work has been published in peer-reviewed publications and her research has been covered extensively in the media. Dr. Modestino holds both a Master's degree and a Ph.D. in Economics from Harvard University, where she also served as a doctoral fellow in the Inequality and Social Policy Program at the Kennedy School of Government.



Christopher Murphy

Vice President/General Manager, Viral Vector Services, Thermo Fisher Scientific, Chair, MassBioEd

Christopher has been a board member at MassBioEd since 2014 and is Vice President and General Manager of Viral Vector Services in Thermo Fisher Scientific's Pharma Services Group. He transitioned into this role when Thermo Fisher acquired Brammer Bio, where he served as chief operating officer. Christopher has more than 30 years of experience in biopharmaceutical

manufacturing, process development, plant operations, and quality system implementation. Prior to joining Brammer Bio, he served as general manager for the Sanofi-Genzyme Allston Landing site overseeing operations and leading an integrated remediation program associated with the consent decree. Christopher has led gene therapy operations and recombinant protein manufacturing at Genzyme and Bioreliance and he began his career in viral vaccine development at American Cyanamid/Wyeth (now Pfizer) in Pearl River, NY. He has a M.S. in biochemistry at New York Medical College, and his B.S. in biology at Rutgers University.



Irene Porro, Ph.D.

Director at McAuliffe Center for Integrated Science Learning, Framingham State University

Dr. Irene Porro is also the manager for the MetroWest STEM Education Network and its formal leader within the national STEM Learning Ecosystems Community of Practice. Porro received her Ph.D. in Space Science and Technology from the University of Padova, Italy. Before entering the field of education, she was a researcher in astrophysics at the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for

Astrophysics, in Cambridge, Massachusetts, and the Max Planck Institut für Astronomie, in Heidelberg, Germany. She then joined the Massachusetts Institute of Technology where she became the Director of the Education and Outreach Group of the MIT Kavli Institute for Astrophysics and Space Research. During her tenure at the Kavli Institute she developed NSF and NASA funded apprenticeship and mentorship programs designed to integrate a project-based learning approach with the power of youth voice and choice, and the support of caring adults. She now brings that experience to the mentoring and internship programs offered by the McAuliffe Center. Deeply aware of the benefits and sense of empowerment that exposure to the integration of art and science learning experiences produces, she is proud to serve on the advisory board for Catalyst Collaborative @ MIT and to work to support initiatives where both the arts and the sciences are fully respected and valued. Porro also serve as a consultant or advisor for several national projects aimed to develop climate education and sustainability initiatives. In 2021, she was invited to join the Network for Emergent Socioscientific Thinking and STEM Education for Sustainable Development Advisory Committee for the Smithsonian Science Education Center.



Sunny Schwartz
Chief Executive Officer, MassBioEd

As Chief Executive Officer of MassBioEd, Sunny leads the organization's current and expanding life sciences education, workforce development, and professional training programs. In her previous positions, Sunny served as President & CEO of the MassHire Metro North Workforce Board, charged with leading workforce development policy and partnership building for a 20-city region, Chief Operating Officer of the Asian American Civic Association, a direct service education and training provider, and Program Development Manager at Commonwealth Corporation, a quasi-public state agency under the Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development. Sunny has been a leader in the education and workforce development fields in Massachusetts since 2000, building partnerships to provide employers with a highly skilled workforce and expanding access to great careers for low-income residents. Sunny also has previous experience in community organizing and social work. Sunny holds a Master's Degree in Public Policy from Harvard University and a Master's Degree in Social Work from the University of Michigan.



Rizwana Seeham
Senior Manager, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion and GMP Quality Assurance, Blueprint Medicines

Rizwana sits within a dual role at Blueprint Medicines where her time is flexed between Quality Assurance (QA) and Equity, Diversity, & Inclusion (ED&I). Rizwana joined Blueprint Medicines in 2018 to support their avapritinib program, serving as the drug product lead when the program graduated to become Blueprint's first commercial product, both in the US and EU (commercialized as AYWAKIT (US)/AYVAKYT (EU)). Alongside her QA role, Rizwana's responsibilities within Blueprint expanded in 2020. Rizwana now also serves as the co-chair for Blueprint's ED&I Committee and oversees all of Blueprint's ED&I initiatives and programs. As a Muslim, bi-racial, immigrant, who identifies as female, Rizwana strongly believes ED&I is a critical element of both personal lives and work environments. With this passion, Rizwana brings perspective to Blueprint's highly engaged and rapidly evolving culture and business model, to ensure BIPOC and other historically marginalized voices are consistently elevated. Rizwana earned her Bachelors in Neuroscience from Boston University and her Masters in Pharmaceutical Sciences with a specialization in Regulatory Affairs from George Washington University.



Philip J. Sisson
President, Middlesex Community College

Phil Sisson is the 5th President of Middlesex Community College (Mass.). He has over 30 years of diverse and exemplary college leadership experience in the areas of campus administration, strategic planning, academic and student affairs programming, fiscal management, resource development and business, community and K-16 partnerships – all with a clear and consistent focus on equity, access and student success. Sisson developed a passion for teaching and serving adult learners, as well as for the unique mission of community colleges at Bristol Community College (Mass.) before accepting a leadership position at the Community College of Rhode Island (CCRI), the largest community college in New England. Before arriving at Middlesex, Sisson returned to Massachusetts to serve as first Dean, then Vice President for Academic & Student Affairs at Cape Cod Community College. Sisson served as Provost and Vice President of Academic & Student Affairs at Middlesex for 11 years. In this role, he acted as a change agent and collaborative leader – working with teams of colleagues across the institution – to establish and maintain a number of noteworthy and innovative academic, student affairs and enrollment initiatives designed to better serve students. His focus on student pathways and outcomes, workforce development and growth, and inclusion and equity positioned Middlesex as the flagship community college in the state. As President of Middlesex, Sisson's focus is on developing MCC as a pacesetter and leader of equitable education practices nationwide.



Rita Smith

**Regional Business HR – US/PR Pharma, AbbVie
Director, MassBioEd**

Rita is currently the Regional Business HR – US/PR Pharma for AbbVie Bioresearch Center (Worcester, MA) and Cambridge Research Center (Cambridge, MA), the company's center of excellence for biologics and neuroscience. In this role, lead the site's Human Resources function and supports the Research & Development and Operations functions. Prior to this role, Rita was Director, Business Human Resources to AbbVie's Chief Human Resources Officer and EVP and the global HR function. Rita joined AbbVie in December of 2013, as HR Business Partner Operations supporting Purchasing and Supplier Management (PSM) and Manufacturing Science & Technology (MS&T). She also held a previous role in Executive Development leading our manager level key talent workshop, the Emerging Leader Program (ELP) and Executive Coaching program for our global senior leaders. Prior to AbbVie, Rita was Senior HR Business Partner of Operations Business Group (OBG) in the Defence Business at Rolls Royce and held progressively responsible HR Business Partner and Labor Relations roles at Ford Motor Company. Rita started her career as a Staff Attorney in house counsel to Service Employees International Employees (SEIU). Rita has a Juris Doctorate (JD) and Master's of Public Administration (MPA) from The Ohio State University in Columbus, Ohio.



Diana Cruz Solash

Vice President, Talent, Inclusion, Diversity & Equity, Vertex Pharmaceuticals

Diana Cruz Solash is Vice President, Talent and Inclusion, Diversity and Equity at Vertex Pharmaceuticals. In collaboration with senior leaders, employee resource networks, community affairs and human resources, Diana is responsible for progressing Vertex's global ID&E strategy and talent programs. Prior to Vertex, Diana spent 20+ years at EY in various HR leadership roles – from recruiting and learning & development to corporate social responsibility, and organizational development – and spearheaded their global D&I roadmap and ethnic minority retention strategy for seven years. Most recently, Diana served as the first ID&E leader at Infor – a global software company with 17,000 employees. Diana holds a BA in Economics & Psychology from the University of Pennsylvania. She is an avid runner who serves as a mentor for Fred's Team and enjoys spending quality time with her teenage children Max and Scotty.



Lily Vautour

Director, Brand Engagement, Boston Medical Center

Lily Vautour is the Director of Brand Engagement at Boston Medical Center (BMC) and manages a team that leads data driven marketing and communications strategies to achieve enterprise priorities (i.e. patient growth and loyalty, employee engagement and thought leadership) and is responsible for the hospital's social media program, traditional marketing, email/digital marketing, research recruitment and patient storytelling program within the Communications and Marketing department. She is anchored by the perspective that institutional reputation is key to creating and supporting camaraderie, engagement, culture and growth across BMC to increase our influence with key audiences in order to better serve our community. Prior to BMC, she developed Boston Children's Hospital's nationally acclaimed social media program and discovered her passion for the health care industry. Lily holds an M.B.A. with a healthcare specialization from Simmons College and a B.S., Public Relations, from Boston University where she also played Division I Women's Soccer.

Roundtable Leaders

Raising Community Awareness of Life Science Careers in BIPOC Communities

Jared Auclair

Associate Dean of Professional Programs and Graduate Affairs, Northeastern University

Joe Boncore

Chief Executive Officer, MassBio

Wade Brown

Head, Strategy and Research Operations Cambridge, Bristol Myers Squibb

Lauren Celano

Co-Founder and CEO, Propel Careers

Renee Connolly

Chief Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Officer and Head of Innovation HR Engagement & Inclusion, Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany

Gretchen Cook Anderson

Executive Director, LabCentral Ignite

Debbie Durso Bumpus

Chief People Officer, Blueprint Medicines

Bill Faria

Head of Global Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Business and People Solutions, Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany

Lily Fitzgerald

Associate Director, Policy and Partnerships, Ginkgo Bioworks

Laurie Halloran

President & CEO, Halloran Consulting Group

Jenn Karnakis

Director of Intellectual Property Programs, Suffolk University Law School

Sarah MacDonald

President, Life Science Cares

Christopher Murphy

Vice President and General Manager, Viral Vector Services, Thermo Fisher Scientific

Saraswathy (Sara) Nochur, PhD

Chief Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Officer, Alnylam Pharmaceuticals

Wendy Richard

Director, Corporate Social Responsibility & Community Relations, US, Sanofi

Chandra Ramanathan

Executive in Residence, MassGeneral Brigham

Rick Russell

Chief Executive Officer, TRACT Pharmaceuticals

Sunny Schwartz

Chief Executive Officer, MassBioEd

Phillip Sisson

President, Middlesex Community College

Kenn Turner

President and CEO, Massachusetts Life Sciences Center

2021 Impact



12,000 students

served in biotechnology lab
and career awareness experiences



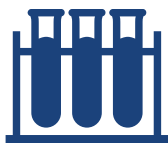
100% ACCESS schools

reached were economically
disadvantaged or high-need



480 professionals

obtained new skills through
professional development course



175 teachers

received hands-on training
in leading authentic
biotechnology lab explorations



450+ people

accessed the annual
Mass. Life Sciences
Employment Outlook Report



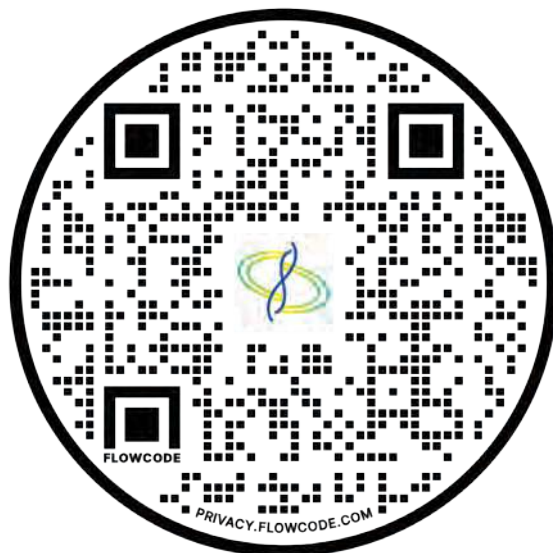
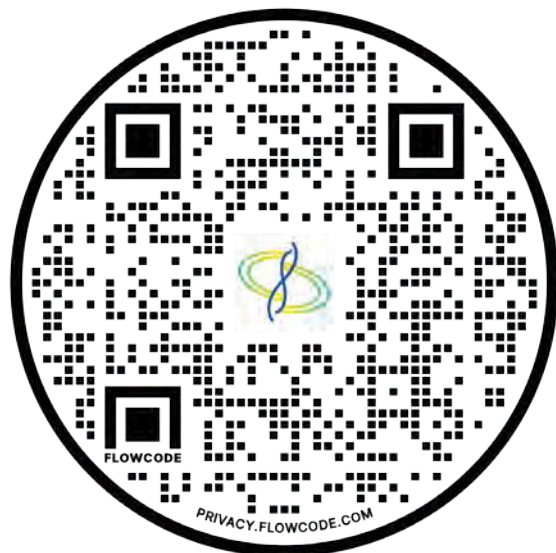
97% of apprentices

transitioned to on-the-job
training at employer
partner companies

**60% of apprentices are
People of Color**

**View the 2022 MA Life Sciences
Employment Outlook**

**Visit for Event Recap
and Resources**



Join Our Mission

Get involved in our mission through volunteering, contributing, or engaging your company in a variety of ways.

Volunteer as a Career Ambassador

Help build a critical bridge between classroom and careers by speaking to students about the opportunities in the life sciences.

Host a Student Event

Host students at your company or campus to expose students to the diverse career opportunities in the life sciences.

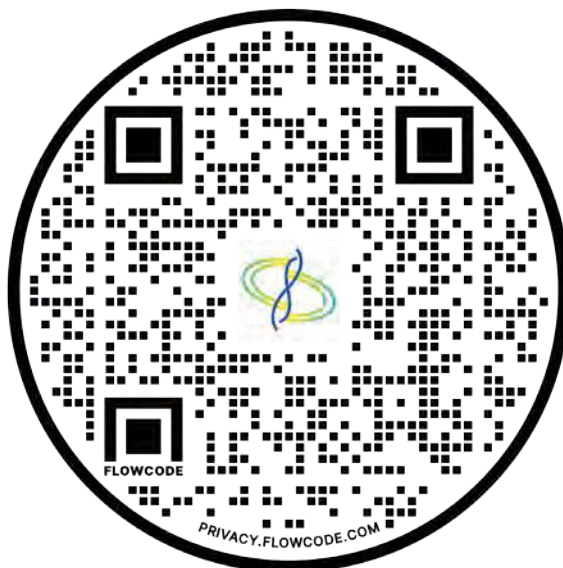
Become an Apprenticeship Employer

Receive a larger, diverse pool of trained applicants for difficult to fill, critical positions.

Contribute

Your donation helps students get excited about science, helps schools and teachers deliver quality science classes with up-to-date equipment, and offers new opportunities to underserved students and often overlooked adults.

Learn more at [MassBioEd.org/Get-Involved](https://massbioed.org/get-involved)



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