

CENTER FOR BIOTECHNOLOGY INNOVATION & TRAINING

ADVANCING BIOTECH EDUCATION AND DEVELOPMENT

With industry and federal support as part of the 2022 omnibus appropriations bill, the University of Washington Bothell has launched its latest initiative, housed in the School of STEM: the Center for Biotechnology Innovation & Training.

The new research and education center is poised to

- provide a trained, skilled workforce to support the growing biotechnology industry in Bothell and the greater Puget Sound region;
- facilitate cutting edge biotechnology research for faculty and students in collaboration with industry; and
- work with a variety of public and private partners to foster new opportunities in the biotech field nationally.



CBIT plans to convene a core of UW Bothell faculty who have expertise in multiple areas of biotechnology, including chemistry, biology, bioengineering, physics, computer science, health studies, environmental sciences, business and regulatory affairs, and policy studies. Together, these faculty are focused on helping to support public health and solve regional, national, and global problems.

This powerhouse of knowledge housed in one center will open new opportunities for industry to partner with UW Bothell on pressing biotech-related questions and research projects.

CBIT's faculty are also collaborating to create a new curriculum that focuses on the skills and knowledge needed by the industry, creating local internships, stackable graduate certificates and industry credentials for those already employed in biotech fields.

This investment in workforce training will provide new opportunities for biotech companies to work directly with UW Bothell on both new talent development and acquisition and current employee growth and placement.

CBIT LAUNCH PRIORITIES

Among its first priorities, the Center for Biotechnology Innovation & Training will:

- > develop biotechnology curriculum built on lab-based skills and focused on the knowledge required for employment in the biotech industry;
- > provide a space for talent development and collaborative research for students and faculty;
- > address emerging needs of the biotech industry in medicine, public health, disease outbreak prevention and preparedness, environmental impacts and business development.

WASHINGTON STATE'S LIFE SCIENCE INDUSTRY*

- > **39,752** – individuals employed directly in the life sciences
- > **44%** – percentage of employees who are women
- > **\$106,122** – average annual wage for life science jobs in Washington state
- > **\$1.4 billion** – value of Washington state's life sciences exports

NATIONAL LIFE SCIENCE INDUSTRY**

- > **344,571** – individuals employed directly in the life sciences
- > **47.9%** – percentage of employees who are women
- > **\$81,500** – average annual wage for life science jobs
- > **\$152.4 billion** – value of national market size

* *Life Science Washington Economic Impact Report 2019*

** *variety of industry and government websites*

FEDERAL FUNDING SUPPORTS UW BOTHELL'S GROWTH IN BIOTECH

UW Bothell's School of STEM was awarded \$750,000 as part of the \$1.5 trillion FY 2022 omnibus spending bill signed by President Joe Biden on March 15, 2022.

These funds are earmarked for expanding curriculum, increasing student-faculty research to support innovation and creating a pipeline of talent for the biotech/ biomedical device sector. They are also the foundational goals of UW Bothell's new Center for Biotechnology Innovation & Training, a partnership between UW Bothell and local biotech, medical device and other life science sectors.

This critical support from congressional leaders in Washington, D.C., is helping to cover the center's startup costs, including physical space, the hiring of CBIT's inaugural director and staff, as well as additional UW Bothell faculty who can join center collaborations.

"This funding will greatly increase our ability to keep pace with the growth experienced by the biotech and biomedical device sector in our region," said Dr. Leslie Cornick, dean of UW Bothell's School of STEM.

"Currently these biotech firms struggle to expand locally due to a shortage of trained life scientists. With CBIT, we have a unique opportunity to train UW Bothell students for some of the best, most rewarding jobs in Washington."

CREATING A PIPELINE OF INNOVATION AND TALENT IN THE LIFE SCIENCES

The timing could not be better for CBIT's launch and its plans to expand biotech research and to grow a skilled and diverse pipeline of workers interested in the life sciences.

In fall 2022, President Joe Biden signed an executive order creating a National Biotechnology and Biomanufacturing Initiative.

The national initiative is intended to grow domestic biomanufacturing capacity, drive research and development to solve great challenges, train a diverse skilled workforce, streamline regulations, advance biosafety and security, protect the U.S. biotech ecosystem, and build a secure global bioeconomy.

With this new focus on public-private partnerships at the national level, the region's biotech and life sciences sector will have an increased need for a strong, diverse, educated workforce.

UW Bothell's Center for Biotechnology Innovation & Training can be your indispensable partner to industry and the state.

"This congressional allocation recognizes the overall innovation ecosystem that is thriving at UW Bothell and that we want to expand. We are grateful to Sens. Maria Cantwell and Patty Murray for their efforts to secure this funding that will move us closer to our vision to be the catalyst that elevates quality of life for our region."

- Dr. Sharon A. Jones, UW Bothell
Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs

"The Puget Sound region is a national hub for biotech research and development ... UW Bothell's new Center of Biotechnology Training and Innovation will provide high-tech training for tomorrow's biotech workers and help develop the next biotech breakthroughs."

- Maria Cantwell, U.S. Senator

"I want to ensure the technologies of the present and the future are made and developed here in Washington state ... Here's the short and simple: leading the world in innovation also leads to good-paying jobs."

- Patty Murray, U.S. Senator

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