

OHIO BOARD OF REGENTS

Agenda Item 3.4 Sinclair Community College, Associate of Applied Science degree in Biotechnology

RESOLUTION

BE IT RESOLVED: upon the recommendation of the Chancellor and with the concurrence of the Initiatives Committee of the Ohio Board of Regents that the following new degree program is approved:

Sinclair Community College
Associate of Applied Science degree in Biotechnology

BACKGROUND

SINCLAIR COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Associate of Applied Science Degree in Biotechnology

Rapid advances in molecular and cellular biology in the last century has expanded the biotechnology industry to include human diagnostics and therapeutics, agricultural and veterinary applications, food production and environmental clean up. The biotechnology industry has doubled in size between 1993 and 1999, with annual revenues increasing from \$8 million to \$20 billion. Currently, there are 1,300 companies engaged in biotechnology in the United States and 350 companies in Ohio. The rapid growth of this industry has increased the demand for trained workers in this field. To remain competitive with the west coast, the mid-west and Ohio needs to reduce the present critical shortage of workers by producing workers who possess the research and technological skills needed for this industry.

Sinclair Community College biology department surveyed over 130 Biotechnology companies. The survey indicated strong support for a biotechnology technician program and employment opportunities for students who earn this degree.

Students enrolled in this program will acquire the technical and professional skills needed, as well as the hands-on training needed for applying a variety of biotechnology research techniques. The program will provide students with a sound scientific foundation encouraging continued professional development and career advancement. Graduates of the Biotechnology program will find job opportunities as entry-level technicians in a variety of research labs, agricultural laboratories, and medical laboratory facilities. DNA investigative labs, quality control and assurance labs and others.

The Biotechnology program will be the first of its kind in southwestern Ohio and positioned to serve the workforce needs of area industries and laboratories.