

OCCC and the OARS R&D Internship Partnership Program

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Introduction

Since 2000, OCCC has been able to support biotechnology program students in their capstone internship course through OCAST's OARS RDIP program. The OCCC biotechnology program is a workforce preparation program, begun in 1999, whose purpose is to provide technicians for the emerging Oklahoma bioindustry, which fits well with the goals of OCAST's R&D Internship Partnership program. All program students must complete at least 320 hours at an internship site.

- First and foremost, OCCC biotech students benefit greatly – the stipend which the grant provides makes a huge difference to our students, who typically are working while going to college. Also, students get to showcase their skills to potential employers as they hone their skills in a workplace environment.

- Secondly, the bioindustry employers benefit by obtaining skilled labor at low-cost to advance their projects and also to screen potential employees without long-term obligations.

- Third, the OCCC biotechnology program benefits from feedback about strengths and weaknesses of interns, which provides for continuous program improvement from year to year.

- Last, but not least, the state of Oklahoma benefits from the development of skilled workers for the state's bioindustry.

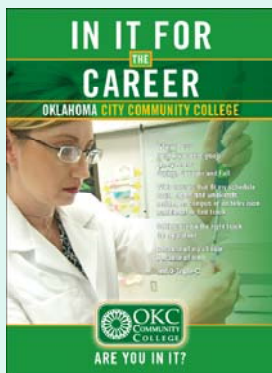


Figure 1. Photograph of Michelle Gambarelli, a 2006 program graduate, now working at OU Medical Center.

Internship Partner Work Sites

• OUHSC Sites:

Stull laboratory at Children's Hosp.
Li Cytogenetics Lab at Children's
Wm. Hildebrand Lab
Greenwood-van Meerveld Lab
McGinnis Lab at Dean McGee Eye I.



Figure 2. Photo of Rubi Johnson with her mentor Brandt Cassidy at DNA Solutions.

•OMRF Sites

Capra Laboratory
Mather Laboratory
Zhang Laboratory



Figure 3. Photograph of Joyce Mann (center) with mentors Eldon Jupes and Daniele DeFreese at Intergenetics.

- **University of Oklahoma Site**
Roe Advanced Center for Genome Technology

- **Presbyterian Research Park Sites**

Analytical Research Labs
Cytovance
DNA Solutions
Hyalose LLC
Intergenetics, Inc.
Novazyme (now Genzyme)
Pure Protein LLC
Riley Genomics
UroCor (now LabCor)



Figure 4. Photo of Brad Johnson Novazyme/Genzyme mentor with Brandt Wood, 2002 graduate who went to work at Urocor, now LabCor.

Other bioindustry sites:

ImmunoMycologics, Norman
Noble Foundation, Ardmore

Summary of Student Outcomes (n=41)

- **63% became employed in the Oklahoma bioindustry right after graduating with A.A.S. or Certificate of Mastery**

- **30% chose to immediately transfer to B.S. programs**

- **To date, Two program students in M.S. programs, three in Ph.D programs.**

Broader Impacts

- OCCC interns at ImmunoMycologics did research leading to a new fungal diagnostic kit on the market.

- The OCCC internship became a model for the INBRE grant, leading to opportunities for other Oklahoma community college students to participate in summer internships.

For further information

Visit the OCCC biotechnology program website:

www.occc.edu/biotech