

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**CONTACT:**

**ANDREA DANIEL**

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

**COMMUNITY AND COLLEGE RELATIONS**

**ATHENS TECHNICAL COLLEGE**

**[adaniel@athenstech.edu](mailto:adaniel@athenstech.edu)**

**706-355-5109**

**ATHENS TECHNICAL COLLEGE AND GWINNETT TECHNICAL COLLEGE  
AWARDED \$1.9 MILLION BIOTECHNOLOGY COMMUNITY –BASED JOB  
TRAINING GRANT**

The U.S. Department of Labor awarded 72 community college partnerships \$125 million for successfully competing under the Presidential Community-Based Job Training Grants initiative. Athens Technical College was awarded \$1,996,326 in the area of Biotechnology and this funding will be used to provide for the creation of a Georgia Bioscience Technical Institute (GBTI) housed jointly at Athens Technical College and Gwinnett Technical College.

This Georgia Bioscience Technical Institute will have primary functions to establish a pipeline to secondary students to enter the Bioscience workforce; develop increased capacity to produce a skilled workforce and produce credentialed workers to enter the workforce during the operational period of funding.

This grant will provide impact for 750 community college students in career assessment and career redirection activities, enroll 100 displaced workers in bioscience training programs, provide bioscience training and teaching resources to 60 incumbent secondary teachers, enroll 72 secondary students into summer academics, provide instructional activities for 60 prospective teachers at universities, and provide career training workshops for 200 incumbent industry workers for a total direct impact of 1,194 persons. The activities for the grant will indirectly benefit and estimated 3,600 secondary students enrolled in classes taught by incumbent secondary teachers that participate in grant activities. The two colleges will expect to award 343 additional academic credentials during the funding period.

Athens Technical College has partnered with the University of Georgia for loaned teaching space, teaching assistance and apprenticeship opportunities during the initial phase of implementation, prior to the completion of a new facility at ATC.

Introduced by President Bush in his 2004 State of the Union Address, the primary purpose of Community-Based Job Training Grants is to build community colleges capacity to equip workers with the skills growing local industries require for success. Athens Technical College President, Flora W. Tydings, stated “we look forward to embracing the opportunities of this Biotechnology grant with our many partners.”