



## Worksystems, Inc.

*Bioscience Investments for a Skilled & Qualified Workforce*

### Challenge -

Bioscience is a growth industry in the Metro area. It includes Pharmaceutical and Medicine Manufacturing, Electromedical Apparatus Manufacturing, Medical Equipment and Supplies Manufacturing, Agri-chemical Manufacturing, Medical Equipment Wholesalers, and Research. Total payroll has grown by 34% since 2002 and now exceeds one half billion dollars. Employment is projected to grow by 5% from 2006 to 2016. The average Bioscience wage is over \$58,000. These are typically high skill jobs that we want to fill with local talent and keep in the Metro area. Companies like Genentech, Welch Allyn, and Biotronik, industry leaders in their fields, have world-wide opportunities for expansion. Our challenge is to meet their workforce needs with regional talent.

### Response -

Worksystems, Inc. (WSI) is committed to growing the Bioscience industry in the Metro area. We do that by assuring a pipeline of skilled workers, by supporting continued training opportunities for incumbent workers, and by working with industry and education partners to make sure that training curriculum is relevant to regional companies.



**Worksystems, Inc. (WSI)** invests in the skills of regional workers and the competitiveness of regional businesses. Businesses benefit from:

- Training grants that enhance the skills of workers
- Investments in skill training for thousands of regional job seekers
- Partnerships with community partners and economic developers on workforce issues related to business retention and expansion
- A workforce development system that connect with qualified job seekers
- A “Navigator” to help employers with workplace accommodations:

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## Worksystems, Inc. – Investing to meet the needs of the Bioscience Industry

### Addressing the Challenge -

- \$220,000 to support a comprehensive training program for incumbent workers at Precision Wire Components in 2005-2006.
- \$35,000 to fund development of a Master's level program in Bioscience Management at OHSU in 2006-2007.
- \$275,000 to fund a lean manufacturing initiative at Welch Allyn in 2006-2008.
- \$47,000 to fund an FDA regulatory compliance training program in partnership with the Oregon Bioscience Association (OBA) in 2007.
- \$431,000 to fund a comprehensive training program (BioPro) for incumbent workers at multiple companies in partnership with OBA since 2008. WSI and OBA convened an industry skill panel charged with developing a training plan for incumbent workers, which WSI funds through a contract with OBA. The courses are in such areas as regulatory environment, quality system management, inspection, corrective and preventive actions, production & process control, lean manufacturing, and other topics considered critically important by our industry partners.
- \$99,000 to fund development of a manufacturing foundations course at Portland Community College to prepare students for a Certificate program in bioscience.
- \$265,000 to fund training for Genentech's new workforce in Hillsboro.

### Next Steps & Ongoing Initiatives -

- Support a training program for the workforce at Genentech's new plant in Hillsboro.
- Continue to support the Bioscience skill panel and the BioPro training program in partnership with OBA. This training partnership between an industry association and a workforce board is helping to grow the bioscience cluster. Companies tell us (1) that they are more engaged with each other and with regional workforce, economic development, and training partners; (2) that the training helps with their employee retention goals; and (3) that BioPro has made training much more accessible.

### TOP METRO BIOSCIENCE JOBS

- Assemblers
- Mechanical Engineers
- Customer Service Representatives
- Computer-Controlled Machine Operator
- Biological Technicians