



Bioenergy Internships



Growing Rural Iowa's Bioenergy Workforce

Project Rationale

Indian Hills Community College's (IHCC) Growing Rural Iowa's Bioenergy Workforce project will address the shortage of skilled Bioenergy workers for the rural community's bioenergy industry. Iowa's workforce statistics show significant challenges; an alarmingly large number of older workers in Iowa are nearing retirement. Employers in the Midwest say that a shortage of highly-skilled young workers to replace aging "baby boomers" is one of the most critical problems facing their businesses (source: National Public Radio (NPR), Midwestern States Struggle to Stem Brain Drain, March 21, 2008). This project will focus on improving the quality of bioenergy education and creating opportunities for students to gain valuable experiential learning through internships and applied research with bioenergy companies. It will improve the students' marketable skills and expose them to industry contacts for future employment references and connections. It also will help smaller bioenergy companies conduct applied research to support specific product development projects that they might otherwise have been unable to afford.

Project Details

The Growing Rural Iowa's Bioenergy Workforce project will increase the skilled bioenergy workforce in southeast Iowa and throughout the state by offering internship opportunities to bioprocess and biofuels degree-seeking students from both 2-year and 4-year institutions. Students are chosen through a rigorous application and interview process ensuring the host company not only hires a qualified intern but also an employee that fits their company's culture.

The Growing Rural Iowa's Bioenergy Workforce project will result in:

1. Increased opportunities for student internships in bioenergy related industrial plants.
2. Increased opportunities for students to participate in bioenergy applied research projects at the Iowa Biotechnology Training Center.
3. Student training in process control technology will be greatly improved by providing the instructors with more focused professional development.

IHCC maintains close ties to the local business community and we are committed to the spirit of providing a dynamic and timely response to the ever-changing needs of our business community and the populace of our small towns and rural areas. In this context, it is our purpose to provide training, retraining, and all necessary preparation for the productive employment of our students. The Growing Rural Iowa's Bioenergy Workforce project would allow us to better train our bioenergy students and thus provide skilled workers to our bioenergy business partners by responding to their need for an increased number of highly-skilled workers.

Host Companies

[Cargill](#)

[FEC Solutions](#)

[Golden Corn Technologies](#)

[Pine Lake Corn Processors](#)

[POET](#)

[Riverhead Resources](#)

Project Location

The project is coordinated out of the Iowa Bioprocess Training Center in Eddyville, Iowa. This 13,000 square foot facility, located in the [Iowa Bioprocess Center](#), currently offers two programs designed to prepare students for careers in the agricultural bioprocessing industry.



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