



CALIFORNIA  
COMMUNITY  
COLLEGES  
**ECONOMIC &  
WORKFORCE  
DEVELOPMENT  
PROGRAM**

## **BUSINESS AND WORKFORCE PERFORMANCE IMPROVEMENT INITIATIVE**

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# **Executive Summary Industry Scan Report Orange County**

## **Biomedical**

### ***“Production & Manufacturing Careers”***



**Prepared By:**

**Center of Excellence, Orange County  
Hosted at Rancho Santiago Community College District**

**September 2005**

**PRODUCTION AND MANUFACTURING JOBS WITHIN THE BIOMEDICAL CLUSTER ARE PROJECTED TO GROW AT 34% AND ADD 1,957 JOB OPENINGS FROM 2004-2006.**

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## **Executive Summary**

During 2004 and 2005, the Orange County Center of Excellence hosted at Rancho Santiago Community College District began conducting an Industry Scan to identify Strategic Opportunities for Community Colleges to meet high-growth, high demand training needs of employers in the surrounding community and region.

It was discovered that the biomedical industry within Orange County will grow 34% and add 1,957 new jobs to the workforce by 2006. A biomedical cluster study commissioned by the Orange County Workforce Investment Board (OCWIB) indicated that these new jobs include: assemblers & fabricators, technicians, technologists, inspectors and auditors.

According to the Orange County Business Council, "Orange County is known as the birthplace of the medical device industry and has significant emerging clusters in pharmaceuticals and biotechnology." The county has seen the development of the significant biomedical cluster with an estimated 31,300 workers and 769 firms.

That development has been spurred, in part, because biotechnology firms are receiving the major share of venture capital investments in Southern California (23.4% or \$395 million in 2003) with Orange County firms leading in awards. Proposition 71, the \$3 billion stem cell research initiative, has further made California a key center for biomedical researchers and investors.

In addition to the expected job growth, the pay scales within these occupations compare quite favorably with those of Orange County. Medical lab technologists can start at \$31,200 in the county's biomedical cluster according to the OCWIB. Chemical technicians can start at \$27,600 and assemblers & fabricators can begin at \$20,400. In each case, they can earn more money than the average starting salary in all jobs in Orange County (\$17,931).

The Orange County Biomedical strategic opportunity was identified for prospective adaptation of Community College education and training programs.

This opportunity is detailed within a full report along with reference to key data sources, a profile of the industry and specific training needs to address this opportunity. A request for the full report can be sent to [caldwell\\_kari@rscdd.org](mailto:caldwell_kari@rscdd.org).

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### **Strategic Partners: Industry**

Southern California Biomedical Association

### **Strategic Partners: Education and Government**

Orange County Workforce Investment Board.  
Orange County Business Council  
Employment Development Department, Labor Market Division.  
California Community Colleges Economic and Workforce Development Program,  
Biotechnology Initiative

\* The Business and Workforce Performance Improvement Initiative is a grant-funded project through the Economic & Workforce Development Program of the California Community Colleges. Our mission is to strengthen California's workforce and advance economic growth through education, training and job development.

## **Business & Workforce Improvement Initiative**

### ***Description of the BWPI Initiative:***

The Business and Workforce Performance Improvement (BWPI) initiative is focused on building the capacity of the colleges in the area of economic and workforce development to enhance their ability to deliver education and training services to businesses and workers in high growth industries and new technologies.

The Centers of Excellence (COE) within BWPI provide information regarding workforce trends, increasing awareness and visibility about the colleges economic and workforce development programs and services, and building partnerships with business and industry.

The difference this will make to the colleges is that it will position them as the workforce partners of choice to business and industry and ensure that college programs are current and responsive. This will contribute to the overall economic vitality of the communities in which they serve.

### ***How to Use an Industry Scan:***

The Centers of Excellence within the Business and Workforce Performance Improvement Initiative of the California Community College Economic and Workforce Development Program have undertaken Industry Scanning to provide targeted and valuable information to community colleges on high growth industries and occupations.

A scan is intended to assist the decision-making process of California community college administrators and planners in addressing local and regional workforce needs and emerging job opportunities in the workplace as they relate to college programs. The information contained in the report can be used to guide program offerings, strengthen grant applications, and support other economic and workforce development efforts.

The full industry scan report is designed to provide current industry data that will:

- Define potential strategic opportunities relative to an industry's emerging trends and workforce needs;
- Influence and inform local college program planning and resource development; and
- Promote a future-oriented and market responsive way of thinking among stakeholders.

The Industry Scan included a review of the California Regional Economies Project reports and Employment Development Department (EDD) Labor Market Information (LMID) projections that cover the communities in the specific region, as well as many other sources as listed.

### ***Important Disclaimer:***

All representations included in this Industry Scan product/study have been produced from a secondary review of publicly and/or privately available data and/or research reports. Efforts have been made to qualify and validate the accuracy of the data and the reported findings. The purpose of the Industry Scan is to assist the California Community Colleges to respond to emerging market needs for workforce performance improvement. However, neither the Business and Workforce Performance Improvement Centers of Excellence, COE host college nor California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office are responsible for applications or decisions made by recipient community colleges or their representatives based upon this study including components or recommendations.