

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

T. WILLARD FAIR, *Chairman*

Members

DR. AKSHAY DESAI

MARK KAPLAN

ROBERTO MARTÍNEZ

JOHN R. PADGET

KATHLEEN SHANAHAN

SUSAN STORY

Dr. Eric J. Smith
Commissioner of Education

Loretta Costin, Interim Chancellor
Division of Career and Adult Education



April 21, 2010

MEMORANDUM

TO: Career and Technical Education Directors

FROM: Loretta Costin, Interim Chancellor

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Loretta Costin".

SUBJECT: Secondary Biotechnology Program Teacher Certification

As you may know, a unique high school program which grants science elective credit and CTE credit was introduced in Florida three years ago. The Industrial Biotechnology program (program # 8736000) is comprised of the following three courses:

- Biotechnology I (#3027010) (students earn .5 science credit/.5 CTE credit)
- Biotechnology II (#3027020) (students earn .5 science credit/.5 CTE credit)
- Biotechnology III (#8736030) (students earn 1.0 CTE credit)

This course combination offers a certification challenge in that those teaching may fit into one of the following categories:

1. A teacher who holds a valid Florida-issued educator certificate in separate areas of science (biology or chemistry) but has no occupational experience (applicable to course I and II only)
2. A teacher who has completed six years of full-time successful occupational experience or the equivalent of part-time experience in the teaching specialization area as determined by the local district school board (Biotechnician 7G) (applicable to course III only)
3. A CTE teacher who also holds an educator certificate in separate areas of science (biology or chemistry) (applicable to course I, II, and III)

Career and Technical Education Directors

April 21, 2010

Page Two

In an effort to meet this unique certification challenge, the University of Florida Center of Excellence for Regenerative Health Biotechnology (CERHB) will offer a summer teacher training opportunity (see attached flyer) to help teachers obtain *part-time experience in the teaching specialization area*. The training is scheduled for July 5-16, 2010 at University of Florida's Center of Excellence for Regenerative Health Biotechnology Education Center. This training program would provide those teachers who have taught course I and II, a means to obtain the part-time occupational experience required to teach course III (if approved by the local district school board).

Since local district school boards may use an alternate means of determining successful occupational experience, this 80-hour training program may be approved by a local district school board in an effort to ensure that course III is taught by a qualified teacher with the required occupational experience. (Section 1012.39(2)(b) Florida Statutes, requires *completion of six years of full-time successful occupational experience or the equivalent of part-time experience in the teaching specialization area. Alternate means of determining successful occupational experience may be established by the district school board.*)

Please note, stipends are available for qualified participants (\$600 plus up to \$250 to cover lodging and travel). For additional information on the biotechnology teacher training program and stipend availability, please contact Tammy Mandell at 386-462-6397 or via e-mail at tmandell@cerhb.ufl.edu. Questions regarding the Industrial Biotechnology program may be directed to Eric Owens in the Office of Standards, Benchmarks and Frameworks (SBF) within the Division of Career and Adult Education. Eric may be reached at 850-245-9015 or at eric.owens@fldoe.org.

LC/kt

Attachment