

## FOR THE EXCLUSIVE USE OF

From the Phoenix Business Journal:

<https://www.bizjournals.com/phoenix/news/2024/02/23/mcccd-bioscience-startups-resources-talent.html>

SUBSCRIBER CONTENT:

### < EDUCATING ARIZONAS WORKFORCE

Education • Sponsored Content by Maricopa Community Colleges

# MCCCD connects bioscience startups with resources, industry with talent



Addressing the growing needs of Arizona's entry-level bioscience workforce, Maricopa Community Colleges, with 10 colleges and 31 satellite campuses, continues to expand cutting-edge STEM certificate and degree programs.

GETTY IMAGES

By Maricopa Community Colleges  
Feb 23, 2024

---

Arizona's bioscience and health care industry is experiencing extraordinary growth. According to the [Arizona Commerce Authority](#), it is among the top four for job growth and bioscience manufacturing job growth rate. The industry is projected to create nearly 90,000 jobs in the next decade. Additionally, the [Greater Phoenix Economic Council](#) highlights how leading research and clinical institutions in the Greater Phoenix area are achieving breakthroughs in translational research and healthcare delivery through strategic partnerships. The expansion of bioscience hubs in metro Phoenix put a national and local spotlight on innovation in this thriving sector.

Situated in the heart of the Phoenix Bioscience Core, the [Center for Entrepreneurial Innovation](#) (CEI) and [CEI LabForce](#) were created by [GateWay Community College](#) and the [Maricopa County Community College District](#) (MCCCD) in 2013 and 2021, respectively. CEI and CEI LabForce play a pivotal role in the bioscience industry and serve as catalysts for innovators and entrepreneurs, helping them jump-start their businesses. CEI offers an array of resources, encompassing entrepreneurial support, educational offerings and workforce development resources. As a testament to its impact, CEI's efforts have supported over 80 startups that have created 917 jobs. CEI has secured \$143 million in capital investments and grants, generating over \$181 million in gross revenue.

"We are excited to witness the growth of the bioscience industry in Phoenix and proud of the role that we have played to support startup founders as they commercialize new products and services in the bioscience, medical device and therapeutics markets," said Tom Schumann, executive director of CEI and CEI LabForce.

In 2022, CEI LabForce received \$1.8 million in federal Community Project Funding. This funding, championed by Arizona Congressman Greg Stanton and Sen. Kyrsten Sinema, further supports a bioscience technician training program housed at the incubator's Wexford Innovation Lab. The curriculum focuses on next-generation sequencing, which analyzes nucleotides, DNA or RNA by performing a variety of applications and studying biological systems that can lead to new medical breakthroughs.

“Maricopa Community Colleges help build the bioscience workforce of the future - providing talented Arizonans with the tools and training to thrive as innovators and entrepreneurs,” said Sinema.

Addressing the growing needs of Arizona’s entry-level bioscience workforce, [Maricopa Community Colleges](#), with 10 colleges and 31 satellite campuses, continues to expand cutting-edge STEM certificate and degree programs.

“As Greater Phoenix establishes itself as a leader in the bioscience industry, we are actively listening to the needs of Arizona’s employers and investing in our workforce development programs,” said Steven R. Gonzales, Ed.D., chancellor of MCCCD.

“Maricopa Community Colleges is proud to educate and provide a highly skilled workforce that bioscience employers seek.”

With over [70 health sciences programs](#) available, Maricopa Community Colleges remains committed to developing new [STEM programs](#) tailored to the bioscience industry. These are some of the offerings.

- [Biotechnology and Molecular Biosciences](#) provides students with entry-level laboratory technician skills used in academic, industrial and commercial research institutions. This Associate in Applied Science program is offered at [Glendale Community College](#).
- [Biomedical Equipment Technology](#) provides students with the technical knowledge and skills needed for entry-level positions troubleshooting, repairing and maintaining biomedical equipment used by hospitals, clinics, home health care providers and medical device manufacturers and repair companies. This Certificate of Completion (CLC) program is available at [Mesa Community College](#).
- [Clinical Research Coordination](#) covers research investigation site management, study coordinator-related activities, subject participation coordination, and regulatory documentation and administration. The curriculum was developed in collaboration with the Mayo Clinic and other hospital partners, and the CLC program is offered at [Paradise Valley Community College](#).

Maricopa Community Colleges is fostering the growth and success of the bioscience industry in Greater Phoenix. Through CEI and CEI LabForce, Maricopa Community Colleges equip the next generation of bioscience entrepreneurs and startups with the necessary resources to grow their businesses. By connecting Arizona’s employers with a

skilled workforce, Maricopa Community Colleges contributes to the continued expansion of the bioscience industry.

*Learn more about Maricopa Community Colleges at [maricopa.edu](https://maricopa.edu).*

*The Maricopa County Community College District includes 10 individually-accredited colleges - Chandler-Gilbert, Estrella Mountain, GateWay, Glendale, Mesa, Paradise Valley, Phoenix, Rio Salado, Scottsdale and South Mountain - and the Maricopa Corporate College, serving approximately 140,000 students with bachelor's degrees, two-year degrees, certificates and university transfer programs.*