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## **GaBio, DeKalb Schools Highlight Education Partnership**

*Innovation Crescent Model Selected for Case Study in Promoting Biotech Education*

**ATLANTA, GA (October 29, 2008)** – Representatives from Georgia Bio and the DeKalb County School District today showcased innovative education and workforce development partnerships forged between Georgia's biotech industry and educators at a national conference in California.

The "Building Biotechnology Bridges" conference in San Diego was organized to take a comprehensive look at how the biotechnology and education communities work together around the country to address science education and workforce development needs. The conference was co-hosted by the national Biotechnology Institute of Alexandria, Va., and the BIOCUM Institute of San Diego.

Cinda Herndon-King, Ph.D., Georgia Bio's Director of Education Programs, and Faatimah Muhammad, DeKalb's High School Science Coordinator, described education and workforce development partnerships created in Georgia's Innovation Crescent, a thirteen county region spanning Atlanta to Athens. In this region, Georgia Bio and its partners are launching high school biotechnology courses, implementing biotechnology tasks in existing middle and high schools courses, and fostering connections among secondary and post-secondary institutions to create seamless career pathways.

"This selection of the Innovation Crescent project as a model of how state biotechnology associations can work to have a positive impact on science education is validation of Georgia's workforce development strategies," stated Charles Craig, Georgia Bio's President. "The DeKalb County School District, under the leadership of Superintendent Crawford Lewis, Ph.D., has been the cornerstone in helping to build a comprehensive strategy linking education, workforce development and industry to support the future growth of the bioscience industry in Georgia."

Other sessions at the San Diego conference focused on corporate benefits of educational involvement, and foundation perspectives on funding educational programs, with speakers from across the county including Wyeth Pharmaceuticals, the Bristol-Myers Squibb Foundation, Bayer Healthcare, Genentech, San Diego Science Alliance, and Invitrogen Corporation.

**Georgia Bio** ([www.gabio.org](http://www.gabio.org)) represents 300 pharmaceutical, biotech and medical device companies, universities, research institutes, government groups and other business organizations involved in the development of products that improve the health and quality of life people worldwide.

**DeKalb County School System** is a metropolitan Atlanta public school system located in the second largest county in Georgia. DeKalb, one of the most culturally diverse counties in the nation, has a student enrollment of more than 102,000 students in 143 schools and centers, and 13,285 full-time employees.

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