

# Biomedical Technician Training Program



- Jointly developed by The Wistar Institute and The Community College of Philadelphia (CCP), the Program is designed to prepare students for new career opportunities as research assistants and technicians.



# History

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- The Community College of Philadelphia
  - One of the first Community Colleges of Pennsylvania (1965)
  - Largest public institution of higher education in Philadelphia
  - 72% Minority students
- The Wistar Institute
  - Nation's 1<sup>st</sup> Independent Biomedical Research Institute
  - NCI designated Cancer Institute since 1972
  - 1<sup>st</sup> laboratory rat model
  - Rubella, Rabies, and Rotavirus vaccine

The BTT Program, founded by William Wunner, has been running since 2000

# Biomedical Technician Training Program Partnership

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- The Community College of Philadelphia
  - Educational Foundation
  - Recruitment
  - Vetting Candidates
  - Processing Applications
  - Mentorship
  - Academic Accountability
- The Wistar Institute
  - Affiliations with academic and industrial partners in the region
  - Practical laboratory training
  - Paid internships
  - Workforce preparedness

# Biomedical Technician Training Program Structure

- Academic
  - Lecture/Seminar
  - Problem sets
  - Group work
  - Skills assessment
  - Oral presentation
  - Written presentation
  - Mentor evaluation
- Technical
  - Training in core lab skills
  - Small group mentoring
  - Two 6 week paid internships
  - Resume workshop
  - Interview workshop
  - Help in job placement



The BTT Program directed by Drs. Kristy Shuda-McGuire and Brian Keith

# Biomedical Technician Training Program Outcomes



- Demographics
  - 72% complete the BTTP
  - 52% from underrepresented minorities
  - 71% female
- Workforce
  - 46% obtain positions upon completion within 1 year
- Education
  - 64% continue their education
  - BS, MS, MD, PharmD, PhD

# Recent Innovations

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- Accelerated 1 year program
- Improve retention
- Increase recruitment
- Accelerate job placement
- Expansion
- Enhanced curriculum
- Project narrative prepares students for research environment
- Incorporate partner feedback in training

NSF-ATE Grant: BTTP ExCEED “Expansion, Curriculum Evolution, and Enhancement of Biotechnician Training”

# Building Access and Opportunities

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- Invest in research training infrastructure at CCP
- Expand training programs for students at CCP
- Engage the community
- Increase support for faculty
- Dedicated administration to promote program
- Engage public and private stakeholders
- Promote program nationally

<https://ccp.edu/academic-offerings/biomedical-technician-training-program-partnership-wistar-institute-and-community-college>

# Biomedical Research Technician Apprenticeship

First-ever registered, nontraditional biomedical research apprenticeship recognized by the **Pennsylvania Department of Labor & Industry.**

## Apprenticeship Benefits:

- Provides a career pathway to becoming a specialized biomedical research technician in a laboratory environment.
- Offers in depth hands-on laboratory training *with* pay and classroom curriculum experience.
- Utilizes collaborations with industry, academia and research institutes in the Philadelphia region, fueling the pipeline.
- Requires successful completion of Wistar's Biomedical Technician Training Program.

Learn more, visit: [wistar.org/BRT](http://wistar.org/BRT)

