Interns representing Antioch, Berkeley, and Oakland Technical High Schools energetically showcased their internship projects, knowledge, and skill at the BRAVO! Poster Exhibition, Saturday, August 11, 2018.

Over 50 volunteers from throughout the Greater Bay Area with science, medical, public health, law, IT and business backgrounds convened at Berkeley High School for BRAVO! 2018 to view the exciting showcase of 61 internship projects presented by the Biotech Academy interns.

Students overcame their academic challenges to earn a paid Summer internship within local bioscience industries. During the poster competition, interns earned merit for their poster based on their oral presentation skills, the creativity of their projects, how educational their presentations were, and the overall quality of their poster presentations.

“Judges were amazed at the diverse positions and the professional work of the interns. It was a real challenge to select the winners among so many talented young scientists,” noted Jason Kantor, Biotech Partners Board President.

Summer internships provide students with insightful experiences in real science positions which inspire academic, professional, and personal growth. Mentoring from bioscience professionals to cultivate positive improvements, coupled with networking within the biotech industries, gives students tools to support their success both in the internship as well as their future careers.

The life changing educational and workforce development opportunities provided to our students are made possible through the dedication of teachers, counselors, school administrators, biotech industry partners, volunteers and donors such as you. Together we bring awareness to the vast array of educational and career opportunities open to our young people. Thank you for your investment to help them believe in their future.
Biotech Partners Welcomes New Board & Staff Member!

Eluem Blyden, Ph.D.
Program Manager
Biotech Partners

Dr. Eluem R. Blyden is a trans-Atlantic citizen born of a mother from Massachusetts and a father from Sierra Leone. He grew up in the U.S.A., Europe and West Africa, obtaining a Bachelor's degree from the University of East Anglia, UK, and a Ph.D. from Cambridge University, UK. His post-graduate training was in molecular genetics of photosynthesis and plant secondary metabolism, including proteomics and computational genomics. He has experience of academic administration and teaching at Dartmouth College, New Hampshire and was Chair of Biological Sciences at Njala University, Sierra Leone.

Dr. Blyden is a serial entrepreneur who has founded and run four companies based on his own inventions in medical imaging, vaccine biotechnology and agricultural technology. He has published patents and industry standards and has worked as a consultant developing national policy for conservation, traditional medicine, food security and pandemic preparedness. He was a recipient of the United Nations 2007 SEED Initiative Award for Environmental Entrepreneurship. We welcome Dr. Blyden to Biotech Partners.

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Congratulations to BCI Students
Skylar Johnson & Umair Yousuf
for successful completion of the
Bioscience Career Institute!

Kenneth Saffier, MD
Board Member
Biotech Partners

Kenneth Saffier, MD, is a family physician with Contra Costa Regional Medical Center's FMR and specializes in addiction medicine and chronic pain management. He is an active member of the Residency Leadership Group.

He graduated from SUNY at Stony Brook School of Medicine and completed his residency at Chicago’s Cook County Hospital in 1978. In 2008, he completed a faculty development fellowship at USC’s Division of Medical Education and is a clinical professor in the Department of Family and Community Medicine at UC San Francisco medical school. He was director of the Addiction Education Champions Project of the Medical Education and Research Foundation (MERF) for the Treatment of Addiction, designed to integrate addiction medicine into residency curricula. He is also a board member of the foundation.

Dr. Saffier has been a Member of Motivational Interviewing Network of Trainers, since 2012. He has provided over 50 MI training sessions including workshops at national conferences, for example the American Society of Addiction Medicine and the California Society of Addiction Annual Conferences. He has also provided MI training for multiple health systems, hospitals, health centers and residency training programs. In addition to sessions on MI he teaches topics in addiction medicine and has partnered in the presentation of multiple educational workshops.

He is also an active mentor in the Providers Clinical Support System for Medication Assisted Therapies and for 5 years has conducted SAMHSA approved buprenorphine waiver trainings on local and regional levels and at national conferences of the Society of Teachers of Family Medicine.