

Construction of the new Health Center will close off parking lot F, located near the bungalows being demolished and parking lot E will lose about 20 parking spaces.

The new Student Health Center should be available for students by summer semester of 2006, according to Tobin Kendrick of facilities management.

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## **BIOTECH EXPANDING: Program participants display high success rate in growing industry**

*BY ANGELA HOKANSON*

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Approximately 200 students have completed biotechnology certificate programs at City College since 1993 and more than 80 percent of these students have found jobs in the biotech industry.

Many City College students who have trained in the biotech industry are working at some of the Bay Area's largest biotech companies and institutions such as Genentech, Bayer, UCSF, Chiron and the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Thirty-five students have completed the pre-certificate On Ramp and Bridge to Biotech programs since they were created in 2002, and about 23 of these students have found employment in the biotech field.

Biotechnology was introduced to the Bay Area in 1976 and has flourished, leading to a surge in demand for workers to fulfill entry to mid-level positions such as lab assistants, animal care technicians and research assistants.

The market for these jobs is profitable to the point that both biotech certificate programs often lose students to the biotech workforce, according to Philip Jardim, director of the Biotechnician Certificate Program and Dr. Edie Leonhardt, director of the Biomanufacturing Certificate Program.

Although many students are also hired directly out of the Bridge Program, Leonhardt said there is a "substantial difference" in salary for students who have completed the certificate program versus those who have not.

Jose Guido completed the On Ramp and Bridge programs at City College and now works as a lab assistant in the Laboratory Animal

Resource Center (LARC) at the University of California, San Francisco.

Guido said the biotech program offered a route to a career in which he could continue to learn as well as be financially rewarded.

Debradenise Brooks, who completed the On Ramp and Bridge programs, now works as a clinical research coordinator at the UCSF Multiple Sclerosis Center. Brooks had worked in the healthcare industry for 15 years before beginning her biotech studies at City College and said the On Ramp program taught her about the "language spoken in the industry."

According to Brooks, the On Ramp and Bridge programs also familiarized her with the multitude of Bay Area biotech companies, facilitated her paid internship at UCSF and gave her valuable career coaching.

The City College biotech programs do not guarantee jobs, although many students who go through the On Ramp program are given paid internships. Biotech companies and institutions recruit City College students on an informal basis by asking instructors to forward students' resumes or to recommend students.

The On Ramp program will double in size this summer to offer places for a maximum of 60 students per year, said Lori Lindburg, vice president of Program Development and Operations at SF Works, a nonprofit organization that is City College's partner for the On Ramp program.

A third biotech certificate program called Stem Cell Research Techniques has recently been added to the biotech program offerings at City College. The college received nearly \$800,000 in funding to establish the new program.

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## **Witness: Trustees Report**

- Board authorizes \$5.5 million to contract with Hunts Construction Group to begin construction of the Wellness Center, Student Health Center and Child Development Center.
- Board hears concerns from AFT/Local 2121 President Ed Murray regarding a proposed delay on recently negotiated and approved faculty raises.
- The board is considering petitioning the San Francisco Board of Supervisors to rename Phelan Avenue after Fred Korematsu, who fought locally against the unjust internment of Japanese-Americans during World War II.
- Peter Goldstein, vice chancellor of finance and administration, reported the college budget outlook for academic year 2005/2006 remains uncertain. He anticipates a \$2.5 million deficit at the start of the academic year.