

Governor's Weekly Message Transcript: Making Delaware a Center for Research and Employment in Biotechnology and the Life Sciences

<http://governor.delaware.gov/podcasts/video/WeeklyMessage160408.mp4>

For more than two centuries Delawareans have driven advances in science and technology. That success has been possible because of the talents and abilities of the people who developed new products and built strong companies, and a supportive environment that encourages and sustains entrepreneurship.

There has never been a more critical time to support research and innovation than today. Jobs in the STEM fields – Science, Technology, Engineering and Math – are increasing much faster than average, and we have a particular opportunity to support a thriving biotech industry, which invests heavily in the development of new treatments and cures while generating many high quality jobs. The possibilities of this research are endless, and we want as much of it as possible to happen in Delaware.

This past week I was proud to recognize more than a dozen middle and high school students and teachers who received BioGenius awards for research and instruction in biotechnology and life sciences. These awards recognize the amazing potential of our young people, like Springer Middle School's Megan Hale, who researched Fruit and Vegetable Connectivity. And we put a spotlight on educators like Chris Havrilla from Woodbridge High School, recognized as a leader in helping his

students learn to solve science problems.

Honoring these individuals should inspire us to continue to give more of our young people the chance to excel in these kinds of projects. Meanwhile, we must continue to support efforts by higher education and the business community to build a well-trained workforce, foster business development, and bring together leaders from government and industry to make Delaware a center for employment in biotechnology and the life sciences. By supporting the workforce and businesses in growing industries like biotech, we ensure our state is well-positioned to thrive in the 21st century economy, and that helps us keep Delaware moving forward.