High School Apprenticeship Challenge

2019

INFORMATION & OUTCOMES
The BioBuilder High School Apprenticeship Challenge is an eight-week specialized program to prepare high school students for paid summer internships in the life sciences. Selected high school students from the Boston metro area build technical knowledge, lab techniques, research-based thinking and professional skills needed for internship opportunities.

Applicants are selected based on a math and English assessment, three short essay questions, and a teacher recommendation.

During the eight-week program, Apprentices attend twice per week after school and for three hours on Saturday mornings. They learn fundamentals of life science engineering as well as lab math by working in biodesign teams and at the lab bench. Professional communication skills are strengthened by participating in a public poster session, in resume writing workshops, and in mock interviews.

Dr. Natalie Kuldell
Founder and Executive Director of The BioBuilder Educational Foundation, Natalie has taught for more than a dozen years in the Department of Biological Engineering at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. She studied Chemistry as an undergraduate at Cornell, completed her doctoral and post-doctoral work at Harvard Medical School, and taught at Wellesley College before joining the faculty at MIT in 2003.
59 APPLICANTS  
19 ACCEPTED

Male 43.8%  
Female 56.3%

Grade level

10th: 15  
11th: 10  
12th: 5

Ethnicity

Hispanic/Latino: 62.5%  
Asian/South Asian/Asian-American: 12.5%  
Caucasian: 6.3%  
Black (African-American, Caribbean): 12.5%  
Native American/American Indian: 6.3%

Schools represented by accepted students

- Brook High School
- Boston Green Academy
- Cambridge R&L
- Community Charter of Cambridge
- East Boston High
- Excel Academy
- Malden High School
- Medford High School
- Revere High School
- Medford Vocational
The rigorous activities, unique interactions, and overall vibrant ambiance of the program was just a huge help, and I will never find the right words to express just how truly grateful I am for it.

Edwin Gonzalez, Malden High School, intern at Syngli, Inc.

2019 Apprentices were placed in internships at the following companies:

- Syngli, Inc.
- Indigo Ag
- LabCentral
- BioBuilder
- Eikonizo Therapeutics
- Feles Bio
- Sanofi Genzyme

63% students placed in internships

100% Apprentices surveyed

- learned from the laboratory component of this program
- are glad they participated in this program
- plan to attend college and major or work in life sciences

Most of the Apprentices surveyed

- Learned some interesting science and engineering in this program
- Improved math skills
- Learned to work on a project team

Thank you for this great opportunity! It was amazing!
Sarah Elkondakly, Medford High School, intern at LabCentral

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BioBuilder gratefully acknowledges our partners for their support of the apprenticeship challenge. Together we're transforming education.