

BioBuilder Inspires Emerging Scientists at the Learning Lab at LabCentral in Kendall Square



Students from the Prospect Hill Academy Charter School hold up their certificates on the last day of their 8-week synthetic biology workshop series at the Learning Lab. Photo Credit: BioBuilder Educational Foundation.

CAMBRIDGE, MA, Jan. 3, 2020 – Last month, 19 students from the Prospect Hill Academy Charter School in Cambridge completed an eight-week workshop series where they explored synthetic biology through BioBuilder’s classroom and laboratory content.

Each Friday morning, the 8th graders and their teacher traveled to the BioBuilder Learning Lab where they got to experience what it is like to be a scientist in the lab, and observe the entrepreneurial hub at LabCentral. Students received instruction from BioBuilder’s Teaching Fellows. At the close of the series, Teaching Fellow Vivek Bajaj, PhD, said of the students that he “observed increased levels of confidence and ability over the course of the term, especially when pushed to decode, comprehend, and execute the protocols independently.”

The BioBuilder Learning Lab, comprised of a working wet lab and adjoining classroom, is housed inside LabCentral, and sponsored by New England Biolabs®. LabCentral offers fully permitted laboratory and office space for as many as 60 startups in its 70,000 square-foot facility in the heart of Kendall Square. BioBuilder hosts many programs at the Learning Lab, such as field trips for local schools, workshops for community groups, and the BioBuilder High School Apprenticeship Program.

About BioBuilder

Created by an award-winning team at MIT, BioBuilder offers new ways to teach, learn, and explore cutting-edge science and engineering. BioBuilder provides students the chance to integrate biology and engineering through practical, hands-on lessons, club activities, and school-to-work experiences. Teachers learn new methods of teaching that engage and inspire the young scientists in their classrooms. Visit www.biobuilder.org to learn more.

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