



Dr. Michelle Myers from GlaxoSmithKline discusses the potential of cell and gene therapies.

## NBC2 STEM Career Pathways Conference for High School Teachers

In April 2019, approximately fifty high school teachers and counselors gathered at Montgomery County Community College to learn about current careers in biotechnology and engineering from industry professionals. Through high level keynote presentations and small group discussions with representatives from 12 local companies participants got a rare opportunity to learn about the current advances in these in-demand careers. Dr. Randy Weinstein, the interim Dean of Engineering at Villanova University opened the conference

with an intriguing and entertaining keynote presentation on the importance of engineering for preparing students for the modern workforce and maintaining a competitive economic edge in the global economy. Round-table discussion breakout sessions facilitated conversations between STEM professionals and teachers about their current job activities, as well as their career and academic paths. Speakers were professionals from diverse fields, including biotechnology, biomedical science, pharmaceutical chemistry, forensics, pharmaceutical-, computer-, electrical- and civil-engineering, each happy to relay exciting advances in their field. Drs. Michelle Myers and Pinar Cicalese of the Cell and Gene Therapies division at GlaxoSmithKline provided a top notch keynote presentation to kick off the afternoon with details on the great promise that advanced therapy medicinal products hold for treating diseases and the diversity of professions needed to bring medicine to market. The conference concluded with an academic panel discussion about the excellent opportunities community colleges provide to their students by way of training real-world and in-demand skills, and by making the pursuit of a STEM career accessible through transfer partnerships with local universities and hiring opportunities with local industry partners.

The essence of this one day conference was captured through recordings of the keynote presentations and short videos featuring many of the round table speakers. These resources will be available soon to all high school teachers, counselors and students on the NBC2 website at the following location:

<http://biomanufacturing.org/teacherresources/high-school-teacher-resources/stem-careers>.

## Still a few spots left for the 2019 NBC2 miniBIOMAN Workshops

This summer NBC2 will offer two options for 2- & 4-year college faculty.

- **Design of Experiments (DOE) for Biomanufacturing**, June 11, 12, & 13, 2019 at MiraCosta College in Oceanside, CA. This workshop builds upon the statistical concepts required for DOE, including hypothesis testing, confidence intervals and statistical modeling.
- **Quality in Biomanufacturing**, July 16, 17, & 18, 2019 at Montgomery County Community College in Blue Bell, PA. This workshop covers effective ways to teach quality assurance and includes quality control experiments and techniques for microbiological control and testing for biologic identity, purity and potency.

**REGISTER NOW AT <http://biomanufacturing.org/nbc2-workshops/minibioman>**

*Full travel stipends available*

