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UNH Manchester Launches Program to Boost State's Biosciences Workforce

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MANCHESTER, N.H.—The University of New Hampshire at Manchester is expanding its workforce development efforts in bioengineering with the launch of the new Millyard Scholars program, which provides scholarships and research opportunities to high-achieving students interested in the field of biotechnology. The Millyard Scholars Program is accepting applicants for fall 2019.

The Manchester Millyard is at the center of conversation around biofabrication since the creation of the Advanced Regenerative Manufacturing Institute (ARMI) and its BioFabUSA program. As a partner in its economic development initiatives, UNH Manchester created the Millyard Scholars program to support efforts to attract and retain exceptional students in the emerging field. The biofabrication industry combines biology-related research, computer science, materials science and engineering to create an industry for engineered tissue manufacturing, which will restore form, function and appearance to wounded soldiers and reduce the waiting time for organ transplant patients.



AERIAL SHOT OF UNH-MANCHESTER.

“ARMI and BioFabUSA have created a need for skilled workers in the biomanufacturing sector,” said Mike Decelle, dean of UNH Manchester. “Through initiatives like the Millyard Scholars program, we are preparing graduates to meet the demand, which will ultimately have an economic impact on our community and state.”

The Bureau of Labor Statistics shows above average growth in many biomedical occupations. In response, UNH Manchester has dedicated its sixth floor to new teaching and research facilities in the areas of bioengineering and cellular biology. It will also include incubator space for start-up biotechnology firms, which will provide on-site research and internship opportunities for Millyard Scholars.

New Hampshire lawmakers are also invested in the growth of the biomedical field. In June, Governor Chris Sununu signed into law a bipartisan bill that forgives student loan debt for college graduates who work at a regenerative manufacturing organization in New Hampshire for a minimum of five years. The bill also put into effect a 10-year tax exemption for New Hampshire organizations that have at least 75 percent of their business activities in regenerative manufacturing.

“New Hampshire has signaled to the rest of the country that we are at the forefront of innovative, life-saving technological developments,” Sununu said. “We have a long history of making smart long-term investments in New Hampshire. We are poised to become the global hub of regenerative medicine, continuing our long history on the forefront of science and technology.”

Millyard Scholars will have access to distinctive seminar classes, research projects and research opportunities with ARMI|BioFabUSA's ever-growing network of member companies.

"We are actively finding new ways to partner with industry, and these collaborations are a win-win for students and biotech companies," said Wayne Jones, provost and vice president for academic affairs at UNH. "Millyard Scholars have the opportunity to work with organizations that are making a real impact in the field, and they'll be prepared to hit the ground running when they graduate."

The University of New Hampshire inspires innovation and transforms lives in our state, nation and world. More than 16,000 students from all 50 states and 71 countries engage with an award-winning faculty in top-ranked programs in business, engineering, law, health and human services, liberal arts and the sciences across more than 200 programs of study. As one of the nation's highest-performing research universities, UNH partners with NASA, NOAA, NSF and NIH, and receives more than \$110 million in competitive external funding every year to further explore and define the frontiers of land, sea and space.

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