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Community Partners Launch Externship Program for High School Students Interested in Bioscience

Free three-day program: EXPLORE Bioscience Innovation & Entrepreneurship

ST. LOUIS – December 1, 2014 – BioSTL, Diversity Awareness Partnership (DAP), Sigma-Aldrich and The Venture Café are partnering to launch a new program aimed at exposing high school students of color to opportunities in bioscience and innovation. The event is free and open to students in their sophomore, junior or senior year who apply at www.dapstl.org.

The EXPLORE Bioscience Innovation & Entrepreneurship program will encourage and empower local high school students from diverse backgrounds to pursue science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) careers in St. Louis' growing bioscience and entrepreneurial ecosystem. Students will learn about opportunities in the biosciences, innovation and entrepreneurship as well as requirements for future internships and/or employment.

"We are excited to be able to bring this program to students in St. Louis," said Dr. Cheryl Watkins-Moore, director of bioscience & entrepreneurial inclusion at BioSTL. "In order for the bioscience and entrepreneurial community here to really thrive, we not only need it to be inclusive, but we must also have a pipeline of young talent interested in the STEM fields. We designed this program to help educate students on the exciting career paths STEM education can offer."

The externship program will span three days with students spending the first and last day at Sigma-Aldrich and the second day at The Venture Café. At Sigma-Aldrich, students will hear from professionals in research and other roles at the company. They will also learn how to design and run an experiment during a hands-on lab experience. At The Venture Café, students will hear from entrepreneurs, learn about design thinking and participate in a group innovation exercise aimed at developing and selling a solution to a direct problem. The program wraps up with a final day at Sigma-Aldrich where students will apply the innovation process to a real world, corporate problem.

Students who complete the EXPLORE Bioscience Innovation & Entrepreneurship program will have real-world hands on experience to add to their college resumes. They will also have made connections to industry professionals and entrepreneurs that could lead to internship or shadowing opportunities in the future. Find out more by emailing [Justin Raymundo](mailto:Justin.Raymundo@sigmaaldrich.com). Applications are due by December 22nd.

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About BioSTL

BioSTL advances St. Louis' prosperity by cultivating a thriving bioscience sector. BioSTL builds regional capacity, nurtures a collaborative environment, and focuses community leadership and resources to capitalize on the unique convergence of St. Louis' corporate, university, and entrepreneurial strengths in medical and plant bioscience. Please visit www.biostl.org for additional information. Follow BioSTL on twitter [@BioSTL](https://twitter.com/BioSTL).

About Diversity Awareness Partnership

Diversity Awareness Partnership is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to promoting diversity in the St. Louis region around issues of race, religion, disability, sexual orientation and gender identity. We achieve our mission through youth programs, diversity training, community forums and diversity publications. For more information please visit our website at www.dapstl.org. Follow us on twitter [@inclusiveSTL](https://twitter.com/inclusiveSTL).

About Sigma-Aldrich

Sigma-Aldrich, a leading life science and high-technology company focused on enhancing human health and safety, manufactures and distributes 230,000 chemicals, biochemicals and other essential products to more than 1.4 million customers globally in research and applied labs as well as in industrial and commercial markets. With three distinct business units – Research, Applied and SAFC Commercial – Sigma-Aldrich is committed to enabling science to improve the quality of life. The Company operates in 37 countries, has more than 9,000 employees worldwide and had sales of \$2.7 billion in 2013. For more information about Sigma-Aldrich, please visit its website at www.sigma-aldrich.com

About The Venture Cafe

The Venture Cafe believes that innovation is a social process. Innovation is fueled by conversation, collaboration, and storytelling. The Venture Café enhances and accelerates the innovation process through spaces, programs, and conversations for individuals and organizations to gather and build relationships. Learn more at VenCafSTL.org and follow us on twitter [@VentureCafeSTL](https://twitter.com/VentureCafeSTL).

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