

# PROJECT ONRAMP

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## Project Onramp Meets Its Goal of Placing 50 Mass. Students from Low-Income Backgrounds Into Summer Internships at Local Biotech Companies

### *Massachusetts Biotechnology Industry Embraces New Model That Opens Doors to Careers in Life Sciences*

CAMBRIDGE, Mass., May 8 – (Business Wire) – Project Onramp today announced they have placed more than 50 students in well-paid internships with top companies for summer 2019 through its first-in-the-nation Project Onramp program. The program will give the students – many of them the first in their families to attend college – hands-on experience and a valuable start towards a career in biotechnology.

“Project Onramp has created a new model for extending opportunities in the thriving biotech industry for high-achieving students who don’t have the personal or family connections that often play a big part in awarding internships,” said David Lucchino, chairman of MassBio and CEO and co-founder of Frequency Therapeutics. “The enthusiastic response from leading life sciences companies in Massachusetts has been overwhelming.”

Established industry incumbents as well as rapidly growing startups have created a total of 50 internships for Project Onramp students for summer 2019. Other firms are contributing by providing training, meeting facilities and mentors for our students.



“We jumped at the chance to offer an internship to a Project Onramp student,” said Nancy Simonian, M.D, president and CEO of Cambridge-based Syros, a leader in the development of medicines that control the expression of genes. “In addition to their solid academic credentials, these students bring an unmatched level of drive and commitment. Providing these opportunities to young people who have been historically underrepresented is important to the health and future of our growing industry.”

Syros’ intern is among several Project Onramp interns that will be sponsored by the Massachusetts Life Sciences Center as part of its Internship Challenge. The state-funded workforce development program enables small and mid-sized life sciences companies to hire paid interns by reimbursing them for stipends of up to \$8,160 per intern.

In addition to scientific and lab opportunities, Project Onramp is providing internships to students in business disciplines such as communications, administration and marketing. Syros’ intern will be assisting in the Human Resources department.

Project Onramp was created in 2019 by the state’s leading life sciences organizations: MassBio, MassBioEd, the Massachusetts Life Sciences Center, and Life Science Cares, working with Bottom Line, a non-profit that helps first-generation-to-college students get into school and succeed. The program is open to undergraduate students who are working with Bottom Line, and is supported in part by funding provided by the State Universities of Massachusetts.

For the full list of 2019 Project Onramp Life Science Scholars, visit [www.ProjectOnrampMA.com/scholars](http://www.ProjectOnrampMA.com/scholars). To see all the companies providing internships, go to [www.ProjectOnrampMA.com/companies](http://www.ProjectOnrampMA.com/companies).

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**About MassBio**

MassBio® is a not-for-profit organization founded in 1985 that represents and provides services and support for the world’s leading life sciences supercluster. MassBio is committed to advancing Massachusetts’ leadership in the life sciences to grow the industry, add value to

the healthcare system and improve patient lives. Representing 1,100+ biotechnology companies, academic institutions, disease foundations and other organizations involved in life sciences and healthcare, MassBio leverages its unparalleled network of innovative companies and industry thought leaders to advance policy and promote education, while providing member programs, events, industry information, and services. Learn more at <https://www.massbio.org/>.

### **About MassBioEd**

MassBioEd's mission is to build a sustainable life sciences workforce in the region through educational programs that inspire and propel students, engage and excite teachers, and illuminate the pathway from the classroom to careers. MassBioEd serves the region through programs focused on training high school educators, exposing students to the college and career opportunities within the life sciences, providing industry and higher education with job trends analysis, and advancing the discussion between community colleges, universities, and employers. Learn more at <https://www.massbioed.org/>.

### **About the Massachusetts Life Sciences Center**

The Massachusetts Life Sciences Center (MLSC) is an economic development and investment agency dedicated to supporting the growth and development of the life sciences in Massachusetts, home to the most verdant and productive life sciences ecosystem in the world. Through public-private funding initiatives, the MLSC supports innovation, research & development, commercialization, and manufacturing activities in the fields of biopharma, medical device, diagnostics, and digital health. Since its creation in 2007, the MLSC has strategically deployed more than \$677 million in Massachusetts. Learn more at <http://www.masslifesciences.com/>.

### **About Life Science Cares**

*Life Science Cares*<sup>SM</sup> is a collective effort of the life science industry to eliminate the impact of poverty on our neighbors in the greater Boston area. Through uniting the human and financial resources of life science companies and industry leaders, we support service organizations that do the best work in fighting poverty in our community. Learn more at <http://lifesciencecares.org/>.

### **About Bottom Line**

Bottom Line helps low-income and first-generation-to-college students get to and through college. This nationally recognized nonprofit is committed to building strong connections with our students, providing them with individual support, and ensuring they have the guidance they need to persist and earn a college degree. Learn more at <http://www.bottomline.org/>.