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(PHOTO ATTACHED)

The Commonwealth Medical College Receives a \$150,000 ARC Grant

PITTSTON, PA, September 30, 2011 - The Commonwealth Medical College has received an ARC grant in the amount of \$150,000 for the TCMC Professional Science of Masters program. The intent of this grant is to purchase specialized, technology related equipment for the "Professional Science of Masters" program which has been developed to train students to be technicians or technical specialists in biomedical research. This 21 month program will prepare a workforce for a career path as research scientists for companies in Biotech, Life Sciences and Pharmaceutical companies, as well as academic research labs and will help the development of research and a potential biotech industry in NEPA by creating a trained, available workforce.

The program will host 10 students per year and will be able to enroll up to 50 students in an on-line version of the program that would be offered to BS/BA level employees currently employed in biotech, life sciences and pharmaceutical industries. This program prepares students for jobs in a growth industry where it is anticipated there will be 32,000 new jobs by 2018 in the U.S. A unique strength of the program is that it will include a 3-month paid internship for students prior to graduation. The ARC funds will be used to purchase specific equipment integral to the training.

Projected job placement is 10-15 jobs at TCMC as lab technicians, 20-25 jobs at other colleges in the region, 20 jobs in the Bio-Tech Industry and 10 jobs at life sciences/ pharmaceuticals/businesses.

For over 40 years, NEPA Alliance has served as the regional development district for the programs and services of the Economic Development Administration and the Appalachian Regional Commission. These federal agencies have provided significant grant assistance in Northeastern Pennsylvania for a myriad of projects that have led to job creation, private investment, community improvements and an enhanced quality of life in the region.



EDITOR'S NOTE: PHOTO ATTACHED

Pictured, from left: Brian Langan, Northeast Regional Office Director, Senator Pat Toomey; Bruce Krell, Field Representative, Congressman Lou Barletta; Dan Flynn, Associate Dean for Research and Economic Development, TCMC; Jeffrey Box, President & CEO, NEPA Alliance; Dr. Lois Margaret Nora, Interim President and Dean, TCMC and Stephen Barrouk, NEPA Alliance Board Chairperson.