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MEDIA RELEASE

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**Mass. Life Sciences Center/UMass Dartmouth highlight area life science student interns**

UMass Dartmouth and the Massachusetts Life Sciences Center highlighted the work of Massachusetts student interns and the companies they have been working with in the SouthCoast region this summer. The students, most of whom attend UMass Dartmouth, participated this summer in the Massachusetts Life Sciences Center 2011 Internship Challenge, a workforce development program focused on enhancing the talent pipeline for Massachusetts companies engaged in life sciences.

Today the students presented projects on topics such as “Surgical Tool Development” and “The Business of Tissue Preservation” to an audience of industry, government and university representatives at the UMass Dartmouth Advanced Technology Manufacturing Center in Fall River. The ATMC is located just minutes from the site of the UMass Bio-Manufacturing Center, which is planned for construction in 2012 and will assist companies as they scale up new products, train the life science workforce, and serve as a research engine for the Commonwealth.

“I am extremely proud of the interns who participated in this cutting-edge program,” said **Governor Deval Patrick**. “This program is enhancing the talent pipeline for our businesses, and helping more students get a jump start on careers in the life sciences field.”

**UMass Dartmouth Chancellor Jean MacCormack** said, “The Life Science Center has been a terrific partner for UMass Dartmouth as we build opportunities for our students to experience the real world opportunities present in the life science industry, and work with companies to create jobs in this region.”

“The Life Sciences Internship Challenge is a key investment to strengthen our life sciences workforce in Massachusetts,” said **Dr. Susan Windham Bannister, President and CEO of the Center**. “This program is allowing life sciences companies to mentor students, and provide on-the-job experience, while expanding the pool of qualified applicants for jobs in the life sciences all across the state. UMass Dartmouth students have been regular participants in the program, and we appreciate the school’s leadership in helping to train the life sciences workforce of tomorrow.”

The following South Coast companies participated in the intern program this year:

Phosphorex (ATMC)  
Boston Open Labs (ATMC)  
Imgen (ATMC)  
NuOrtho Surgical (ATMC)  
Five Star Surgical (New Bedford)

Five Star Manufacturing (New Bedford)  
PharmaHealth (Fairhaven)

The following students participated:

Phosphorex

Lauren Alfonse of Dartmouth, Boston College – Bio- Chemistry  
*Synthesis of Hollow Polystyrene Microspheres and Quantification of Amine-Modified Polymer Surfaces*

Julia Massey of Birmingham, Alabama, Amherst College – Chemistry  
*Synthesis of Chitosan Nanospheres*

Boston Open Labs

Adam Acorn of Framingham, UMass Dartmouth - Business  
Shanqing Caleb Chang of Brookline, UCONN Pre-Pharmacy  
*Behind the Doors of a Biotech Startup*

Imgen

Hana Bao of Sharon, Johns Hopkins University - Public Health  
Stephen Bi of Boxborough, Northwestern University - Bio-Medical Engineering  
*Imgen SensiT - Beta-lactam Rapid Milk Safety Test Kit*

NuOrtho Surgical, Inc.

Tamer Plourd of Wilbraham, UMass Dartmouth – Business  
*NuOrtho Surgical: The Business of Tissue Preservation*

Five Star Surgical

Ross Douglas of Norfolk, UMass Dartmouth - Mechanical Engineering  
*Product Development, Quoting and Inventory*

Michael Mongeau of Marlborough, UMass Dartmouth - Mechanical Engineering  
*Surgical Tool Development*

Five Star Manufacturing

Michael Davey of Uxbridge, UMass Dartmouth - Mechanical Engineering  
*Validation and ISO Accreditation*

Alexander Marden of Shrewsbury, UMass Dartmouth - Mechanical Engineering  
*Programming, Quality Control and Traceability*

PharmaHealth

Meaghan Andre of Dartmouth, UMass Dartmouth - Biology  
Ashley Whewell of New Bedford, UMass Dartmouth - Biology  
*A Solution to Your Problems*

The Internship Challenge, now in its third year, facilitates the placement of students and recent graduates who are considering career opportunities in the life sciences in paid summer internships across the state. Consistent with the Center's role as a catalyst in growing the talent needed by the life sciences industry, the Internship Challenge is

designed to provide students and companies with the tools to connect, and the Center will reimburse eligible companies for intern stipends.