

NEWS RELEASE

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## **Massachusetts Life Sciences Center Receives Excellence in Economic Development Award from International Economic Development Council**

*Award-winning Internship Challenge Program provides students experience in cutting-edge life sciences companies*

**Waltham, MA** September 26, 2017- The Massachusetts Life Sciences Center (MLSC) won a Gold Excellence in Economic Development Award for Internship Challenge Program, a project in the category of Human Capital of the International Economic Development Council (IEDC). The honor was presented at an awards ceremony, during the IEDC Annual Conference, which was held earlier this month, in Toronto, Canada.

“On behalf of the IEDC board of directors and Excellence in Economic Development Awards Advisory Committee, congratulations to the Massachusetts Life Sciences Center. Not only did they work to provide a necessary service to their community; but also, their participation in the awards program sheds light on their stellar projects which other communities can now use as a benchmark.” - Michael Langley, FM, CEO of GREATER MSP, Minneapolis–St. Paul, MN, and 2017 IEDC Board Chair

The Massachusetts Life Sciences Center’s mission is to ensure that the life sciences in Massachusetts remain the most dynamic, verdant ecosystem of its kind in the world. The MLSC offers the nation’s most comprehensive set of incentives and collaborative programs that propel the growth that has made Massachusetts a global leader in life sciences.

“Providing best in class STEM education requires more than just equipment, text books, and classroom activities,” said Travis McCready, President & CEO of the Massachusetts Life Sciences Center. “Through our Internship Challenge Program, we are providing students real world experience at companies engaged in some of the most cutting-edge, disruptive technologies the world has ever seen. And given the high-priority we, and the entire state, place on STEM education, our companies are getting some of the best educated students in the country. It is a match made in heaven.”

Industry-based experiential learning opportunities are critical to growing and strengthening the talent pipeline. To support students in a gig economy, an Internship Challenge was launched, which is a workforce development program that creates hundreds of new internship opportunities each year by enabling companies to hire paid interns. Using an innovative technology platform, students and companies match talent and need with maximum efficiency and ease. Companies can search talent and students can publicize their interests and skills state-wide. The program funds 12-week internships year-round, offering a variety of positions for college students and recent graduates interested in a career in the life sciences.

To date, the MLSC has subsidized over 3,000 students in internships with more than 600 companies in all sectors of the life sciences including biotechnology, drug discovery, medical device, digital health, diagnostics and more.

“The awards process is a thorough, non-biased and multi-layered process. These are extraordinary accomplishments for all winners, and an overall great effort by all participants. We look forward to next year’s awards competition,” Langley said.

**About the Massachusetts Life Sciences Center** *The Massachusetts Life Sciences Center (MLSC) is an investment agency that supports life sciences innovation, research, development and commercialization. These investments create jobs and support advances that improve patient health and well-being. The MLSC offers the nation’s most comprehensive set of incentives and collaborative programs targeted to the life sciences ecosystem. These programs propel the growth that has made Massachusetts the global leader in life sciences. The MLSC creates new models for collaboration and partners with organizations, public and private, around the world to promote innovation in the life sciences. For more info: [www.masslifesciences.com](http://www.masslifesciences.com)*

**About the International Economic Development Council** *The International Economic Development Council (IEDC) is a non-profit membership organization serving economic developers. With more than 5,000 members, IEDC is the largest organization of its kind. Economic developers promote economic well-being and quality of life for their communities, by creating, retaining and expanding jobs that facilitate growth, enhance wealth and provide a stable tax base. From public to private, rural to urban, and local to international, IEDC’s members are engaged in the full range of economic development experience. Given the breadth of economic development work, our members are employed in a wide variety of settings including local, state, provincial and federal governments, public private partnerships, chambers of commerce, universities and a variety of other institutions. IEDC’s members create high-quality jobs and develop vibrant communities. [www.iedcONLINE.org](http://www.iedcONLINE.org)*