



Innovation Crescent Work Ready Region Strategy Overview

Work Ready Regions link education and workforce development and align to a regional industry cluster. Because of the ebb and flow of the growth of industry clusters, regions have no set boundaries. Rather, they are determined by the number and size of cluster-industries contained within the region, common natural and manmade regional resources that support the cluster-industry and significant commuting patterns.

The Innovation Crescent (IC) includes: Barrow, Clarke, Clayton, Cobb, DeKalb, Fulton, Gwinnett, Jackson, Madison, Morgan, Oconee, Oglethorpe and Walton Counties.

Work Ready Region Strategy for the Innovation Crescent

Vision

The Innovation Crescent is internationally recognized as a unique hub of life science talent.

Differentiating the IC

- Successful applied research focusing on the interface between animal and human health
- Successful breakthrough research in nano-medicine, neuroscience, infectious diseases and bio-defense enabled by the proximity and collaboration among three world-class universities and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, U.S. Department of Agriculture and other federal research institutions
- Specialized training programs to develop a skilled labor pool able to work in highly regulated life science clinical, research and manufacturing facilities

Building the strategy

What are our goals?

1. Retention and expansion of existing life science industries
2. Integrated and seamless education and workforce system supporting the life science industry cluster
3. Creating an environment that fosters fast-growth entrepreneurs
4. Alignment of education and workforce development resources to support the industry cluster
5. Grow high-wage jobs

Where will we compete?

Life science industry cluster including:

- Therapeutics (pharmaceuticals, medical devices, biologicals, vaccines)
- Bio-defense
- Agri-business
- Research and development
- Environmental

with cutting-edge platform technologies in biotechnology, nanotechnology, bioinformatics and genomics



Specializing in niche markets to support the cluster including: 1) design, construction and maintenance skills required in designing, building and maintaining life science facilities, including green technology/green buildings; 2) specialized training in regulatory requirements; and 3) suppliers unique to the life science cluster.

How will we win?

Short term:

- Funding secured from all counties, successful branding of Innovation Crescent workforce assets and industry buy-in
- Innovation Crescent Work Ready Region linked to state life science strategic plan
- Introducing Innovation Crescent at BIO 2008-2009
- Location of National Biodefense Agriculture Facility (NBAF) in Innovation Crescent
- Increase number of life science-related federal grants awarded in region

Long term:

- All counties become Certified Work Ready Communities
- Eliminate the skills gap by increasing percent of gold-level Work Ready Certificates
- Clearly articulate career pathways aligned to life science industry cluster
- Increase the number of fast-growing life science-related entrepreneur start-up companies
- Attract eminent scholars to region