

## Amgen Biotech Experience

Scientific Discovery for the Classroom

Greater Los Angeles

Dear ABE-LA teachers,

Welcome to another great year with the Greater LA Amgen Biotech Experience program!

We are looking forward to working with you again to bring the ABE labs to your students. **In lieu of our annual teacher meeting that normally takes place in September, we are sending out this email of important announcements to all of our teaching partners. Please read this letter carefully to learn about updates and changes that are occurring in the program this year.**

This email includes information on: a new partnership with UNITE-LA, our new weekend teacher workshop series, dates for this school year's workshops, and reminders about program policies and teacher expectations. The text of this email is also included as an attached Word document, should you prefer to read it that way.



**UNITE-LA**, the education and workforce development affiliate of the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce, has partnered with the Amgen Foundation to continue the ABE-LA program. Established in 1998, UNITE-LA is a nonprofit organization that leads collaborative education reform efforts, promotes business-education partnerships, expands college access, and provides workforce development opportunities for youth in the LA area to ensure underserved youth have the opportunity to participate in LA's 21st century economy. UNITE-LA will enhance ABE-LA outreach to underserved students and increase diversity and inclusion in under-resourced schools. As part of this new partnership, the ABE-LA team welcomes our new co-site director from UNITE-LA, **Geraldine Contreras**.

Learn more at:

[www.lachamber.com/news/2017/08/25/press-release/unite-la-partners-with-amgen-foundation-on-advancing-the-amgen-biotech-experience-in-the-los-angeles-region/](http://www.lachamber.com/news/2017/08/25/press-release/unite-la-partners-with-amgen-foundation-on-advancing-the-amgen-biotech-experience-in-the-los-angeles-region/)

**Amgen Biotechnology Experience  
Teacher Training**

**Workshop A: Labs 1, 5 and 6**

This free training covers the Focus on Bacteria sequence of the Amgen Biotech Experience curriculum and its alignment to NGSS. Participants will gain hands-on practice of Micropipettes, Gel Electrophoresis, Bacterial Transformation, and Protein Purification. Trained teachers would be eligible to borrow research-grade lab equipment, obtain reagents and supplies to teach these labs at their respective schools, and receive technical support.

<b>Oct 14 - 15, 2017</b> 8:30 AM - 3:30 PM Pierce College Los Angeles County Apply by Sep 26		<b>Nov 4 - 5, 2017</b> 8:30 AM - 3:30 PM Fullerton College Orange County Apply by Oct 16
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Register at [ABE-LA.org](http://ABE-LA.org)

Logos for UNITE-LA, Pierce College, Fullerton College, and Amgen Biotech Experience are at the bottom.

### Teacher Training Workshops.

In order to provide a better training experience for new teachers (one that more closely approximates our comprehensive week-long summer workshops), we have decided to implement a new 2-day workshop training model for the program. Rather than conducting the entire Abridged Genetic Engineering Sequence in a single 2-day workshop, we want to spend more time training teachers on the labs. We will therefore be offering training on the Abridged Sequence over the course of two 2-day workshops:

- Workshop A (2 days): Labs 1, 5B, and 6
- Workshop B (2 days): Labs 2A, 4A, and TBA

Teachers new to ABE will be required to attend Workshop A and implement at least lab 1 in their classrooms before they will be allowed to attend Workshop B. As always, teachers will only be allowed to implement labs that they have been trained on.

We will only be offering Workshop A this coming school year, and next year (2018-19) we will offer both workshops A and B. In addition, we will also offer Colony PCR training workshops each spring.

### 2017-18 ABE-LA Workshops

#### **Workshop A (Labs 1, 5B, 6)**

October 14-15, 2017

Pierce College

Apply by September 26 at [abe-la.org](http://abe-la.org)

Notifications by October 2

**Workshop A (Labs 1, 5B, 6)**

November 4-5, 2017

Fullerton College

Apply by October 16 at [abe-la.org](http://abe-la.org)

Notifications by October 23

**Colony PCR workshop**

March 10, 2018

Pierce College

Application and dates not yet available

Teachers are required to attend both days of the 2-day workshops. Workshops are free, and teachers who attend a training are eligible to obtain, at no cost, all the materials they need to be able to implement the labs with their students.

**PCR Policy Reminder.**

As of this year, we are no longer supporting the "Alu PCR" lab and will only support the Colony PCR lab. Teachers wishing to conduct the Colony PCR lab must attend a PCR workshop, and they must be implementing either the Abridged Genetic Engineering Sequence or Complete Genetic Engineering Sequence with their students.

**Teacher Expectations and Program Policies**

Our Teacher Expectations and Program Policies have not changed since last year. Please review them carefully. You will be asked to sign a new copy and submit it to your program coordinator before you obtain your ABE materials this year. A copy of the form is attached to this email, and it can also be found on our program website ([abe-la.org](http://abe-la.org)).

**Cash for College Convention**

UNITE-LA would like to extend an invitation to high schools, students, and families to participate in the 16<sup>th</sup> *Annual Cash for College: College and Career Convention* (Oct. 13-14, 2017). The event targets high school students, helping them access financial aid information and resources about college and career opportunities. This is a free event. To learn more, visit: <http://www.lacashforcollege.org/convention> for additional details.

If you have any questions or concerns about the ABE program, please feel free to contact me or your

distribution center coordinator. (Note that I am currently on maternity leave until November, so contact your coordinator if you would like a quick response.)

Thank you for continuing to participate in the ABE program. We know how much time and energy it takes for you to bring the ABE labs to your students, and we applaud you for your commitment to giving your students this experience.

Sincerely,

**Sherry Tsai, PhD**

Greater LA Co-Site Director

Amgen Biotech Experience

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On behalf of the ABE-LA Team:

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