



## **Leveraging the Regional Research and Development Pipeline to Develop a Highly Skilled Workforce in Southeastern Pennsylvania.**

The Philadelphia region has a long history of being a leader in innovation. With over fifty colleges and universities and hundreds of companies, both large and small, this region is a hotbed for research and development. As new products mature and move through the development pipeline, the skills and knowledge required by the employee workforce evolve. To address the constantly evolving workforce needs, Montgomery County Community College (MCCC) collaborates with local innovation leaders to develop educational programs and workforce training opportunities. These programs help supply a steady flow of qualified, trained workers into fields such as biotechnology and information technology that provide family-sustaining wages and help drive the regional economy.

For 60 years, Montgomery County Community College (MCCC) has been transforming lives and communities to meet the evolving educational needs of Montgomery County. The College's comprehensive curriculum includes more than one hundred associate degree and certificate programs, as well as customized workforce training and certifications. Students enjoy the flexibility of learning at the College's thriving campuses in Blue Bell and Pottstown and online.

Dr. James Bretz is the Dean of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) at MCCC. The STEM Division houses fifteen certificate and associate degree programs, ranging from transfer degrees in mathematics and life or physical sciences to career-ready degrees in applied sciences such as biotechnology, engineering, and information technology. Through partnerships with regional employers, MCCC STEM students earn crucial experience through research projects, industry design challenges, internships, and apprenticeships. STEM Division programming and activities are supported by the National Science Foundation, The United States Department of Defense, and private corporations and individuals.

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