

For more information contact:

Jennifer Mortensen at 206.256.7220: jennifer.mortensen@seattlebiomed.org

Lee Schoentrup at 206.256.7440: lee.schoentrup@seattlebiomed.org



“Infectious” global health curriculum spreading through Washington state schools, increasing STEM literacy

BioQuest & Washington Global Health Alliance Ambassadors program introduce global-health focused curriculum in 70 secondary schools this fall

October 5, 2011, SEATTLE — Teachers across Washington State are introducing new, global health-focused curriculum to thousands of high school students with a goal to make a direct impact on science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) literacy. Designed by [BioQuest](#) – an educational outreach program of [Seattle Biomedical Research Institute](#) – and other participants in the [Washington Global Health Alliance \(WGHA\) Ambassadors program](#), these innovative lesson plans are being deployed in 70 high schools and community colleges across the state via partnership with the [Washington MESA](#) (Mathematics, Engineering and Science Achievement) program. Lessons address secondary chemistry, mathematics and U.S. history national standards. With more teens understanding STEM concepts and applying them to real-world global health issues, BioQuest, MESA and WGHA aim to fill the workforce pipeline with smart, motivated young leaders capable of tackling some of the toughest local and global health issues.

In collaboration with high school teachers and WGHA member organizations, and with support from The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, BioQuest led the development of the multidisciplinary global health curriculum for high school juniors. A three-year pilot curriculum development phase proved impressively successful. Outcomes revealed student achievement in these knowledge areas greatly increased for 1,800 students from four high-needs rural and urban schools. As a result, BioQuest and WGHA are collaborating with Washington MESA to deploy similar lessons in high schools and community colleges across the state.

Teachers in chemistry, social studies and algebra will use the curriculum to draw upon nearly 50 global health-focused lessons. Each lesson emphasizes creative, interdisciplinary learning, and instructors are supported with access to engaging resources, assessment instruments and ongoing professional development provided by BioQuest and WGHA.

During two intensive workshops in Eastern and Western Washington, WGHA Ambassadors Program Officer Nona Clifton helped to train MESA instructors to teach and apply the global health curriculum. “The fact that these lessons are heading to 70 classrooms across our state is a testimony of the demand from secondary education audiences to coalesce our state’s research and science expertise with classroom learning and real-world challenges,” said Clifton. “I’ve staffed MESA trainings in Seattle and Spokane to help instructors get ready to implement the curriculum; everyone involved is

expressing both excitement and urgency to start teaching teens how to apply classroom coursework to the careers and learning pathways they are passionate about exploring in the 'real world'."

The rollout of this global health focused curriculum across Washington state is just the beginning of what BioQuest and WGHA hope will become a trend in education. "Our hope is that this specialized curriculum development and dissemination to local schools will constitute a model that could be replicated across the country," said BioQuest Program Director Theresa Britschgi. "Ultimately, we want to motivate students within and beyond our state borders to pursue and persist in STEM and globally responsible careers. After all, it will be today's youth who shape the future workforce of our nation."

About Seattle Biomedical Research Institute:

Seattle BioMed is the largest independent, non-profit organization in the U.S. focused solely on infectious disease research. Our research is the foundation for new drugs, vaccines and diagnostics that benefit those who need our help most: the 14 million who will otherwise die each year from infectious diseases, including malaria, HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis. Founded in 1976 Seattle BioMed has more than 360 staff members. By partnering with key collaborators around the globe, we strive to make discoveries that will save lives sooner. For more information, visit seattlebiomed.org.

About BioQuest:

Education and training of the next generation of global health innovators from secondary school to postdoctoral candidates is an inherent part of Seattle BioMed's mission. As an educational outreach program of Seattle BioMed, BioQuest fosters the scientific education of our citizens, with the goal of building and inspiring a community that supports science and global health. BioQuest's multi-disciplinary outreach offerings deliver access to cutting-edge life science research and global health knowledge to thousands of individuals every year, and currently include the BioQuest Academy and Washington Global Health Alliance Ambassadors (WGHA) programs, visits to Seattle BioMed laboratories by high-school classes, teacher workshops, internships, participation in community events and local and state education advocacy.

About the Washington Global Health Alliance:

The Washington Global Health Alliance was established in 2008 by a consortium of leading Washington research universities and non-profit organizations with the goal of enhancing the documented growth metrics of the State's Global Health business sector. Its members include leading research organizations and foundations, such as The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center, Infectious Disease Research Institute, Seattle BioMed,

Institute for Systems Biology, PATH, Seattle's Children's Global Alliance for the Prevention of Prematurity and Stillbirth, University of Washington, Washington State University, Public Health of Seattle & King County and Pacific Northwest National Laboratories.