



Sept. 20, 2012  
News Release

## **The Amazing Biotech Race: Saskatchewan's National Biotech Week Celebrations**

**Saskatoon, SK:** It was so much fun last year that we are doing it again! The Amazing Biotech Race will be held for the second year on Thursday, September 20<sup>th</sup> at Innovation Place.

The goal of this event is to help bioscience students get into the community and connect with businesses, meet people and learn a bit more about what's happening in Saskatoon's bioscience cluster.

SIAST BioScience Technology Program students are mixed with high school students from Evan Hardy, Centennial, and Bedford Road Collegiates and split into teams, encouraging networking and a healthy dose of competition. Costumes are part of the fun.

The Amazing Biotech Race starts at the Atrium at Innovation Place, where teams receive their first clues. Innovation Place companies serve as checkpoints where students take part in lab challenges, answer skill testing questions and gather clues in order to complete the race.

Blaine Chartrand, Program Head for the SIAST BioScience Technology Program, was the inventor of the Amazing Biotech Race. "It's a great way to get students to connect with industry in their chosen field. We hope that including the high school students may encourage them to think about bioscience as a career option."

Participating companies are, POS Bio-Sciences, Linnaeus Plant Sciences, Dow AgroSciences, Canadian Light Source, Phenomenome Discoveries, SRC BioManufacturing and SRC GenServe Laboratories. Race sponsors are SIAST-Office of Applied Research & Innovation, Canadian Light Source, BASF Canada, SRC, Genome Prairie, NRC, The Western Producer, BioTalent Canada, Innovation Saskatchewan and POS-Bio-Sciences.

After the race, join us for **Biotech & Beer at Boffins**, with presentations by Mayor Don Atchison, Brent Zettl (Prairie Plant Systems) Reno Pontarollo (Genome Prairie), Dominique Singh (U of S Master's Student), with music by Whiskey on a Sunday (4-7pm). RSVP: [events@agwest.sk.ca](mailto:events@agwest.sk.ca)

### **Amazing Biotech Race Details:**

#### **Thursday, Sept. 20**

Start time: 1:00pm – The Atrium at Innovation Place (111 Research Drive, west doors)

Finish: 4pm at Boffins Club (106-111 Research Drive)

Ag-West Bio coordinates National Biotech Week activities in Saskatchewan, with a committee made up of bioscience cluster organizations. For information about other events in Saskatchewan this week, please visit [www.agwest.sk.ca](http://www.agwest.sk.ca).

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