



Sept. 26, 2013

News Release

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

Saskatoon, SK: What do pirates, butterflies and Groucho Marx have to do with science? Well, you never know who might show up at the Amazing Biotech Race. The race will be held for the third year on Thursday, September 26th at Innovation Place.

The goal of this fun 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 and Bedford Road Collegiates and split into teams, encouraging networking and a healthy dose of competition.

The Amazing Biotech Race starts at the Atrium at Innovation Place, where costumed 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. "The Race was created as a fun way to introduce students to biotech companies and show them that there is a practical use for their lab skills and biotech knowledge. Hopefully some of the high school students will realize that their biology classes could be the foundation for a career."

Participating companies are Contango Strategies, Dow AgroSciences, Viterra, Canadian Light Source, POS Bio-Sciences, Saskatchewan Research Council, AdeTherapeutics and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency.

After the race, join us for **Biotech & Beer at Boffins** from 4-7:00 pm, with presentations by Colleen Christensen (U of S Feeds Innovation Institute) and Monika Polewicz (Ag-West Bio). Saskatoon's Mayor Donald Atchison will also address the audience. Music will be by One More Troubadour. RSVP: events@agwest.sk.ca

Amazing Biotech Race Details:

Thursday, Sept. 26

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

Finish: 4:00pm at Boffins Club (106-111 Research Drive)

Ag-West Bio coordinates National Biotech Week activities in Saskatchewan, with a committee from Saskatchewan's bioscience organizations. For information about other events in Saskatchewan this week, please visit <http://www.agwest.sk.ca/kaizen/NBW2013/NBW2013.htm>.

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