



FALL 2025

# GENE EDITING 360:<sup>TM</sup> A NEW HORIZON

## Dear Friends, Educators, and Students:

Another semester has passed, filled with brilliant minds, bright smiles, and new accomplishments! We're so proud to have served over 1,000 students last year, touching all three counties of Delaware and pushing our reach out to Pennsylvania and Maryland. Our booking platform made scheduling far easier and granted us the peace of mind we needed to run workshops that demystified gene editing and removed barriers of entry for budding scientists.

This was a year of firsts. And there's another first coming our way too – our education program coordinator's first child! Sarah LaTorre will be going on maternity leave in early 2026, and we're so excited to meet the newest member of the Learning Lab team!

With that announcement does come some changes to our usual routine. We'll be taking on fewer Learning Labs in the spring, which historically has been our busiest time. We will be staying in our Learning Lab space for the year and improving the program as we go. However, we know with collaboration and flexibility, we'll accomplish our goals of bringing in 500 students to the Learning Lab this year, even with our reduced staff. How will we do that? We're excited to share in the pages to come.

Ultimately, we've made this Learning Lab a place of continued innovation and drive over the last three years, and we couldn't have done it without you. Each new student, teacher, and interested partner grows our program even stronger. And we hope to continue bringing quality gene editing education to the community we serve.

Biggest thanks,

Amanda Hewes

## A reminder for teachers who have used CRISPR in a Box!<sup>TM</sup>

Reviews help us improve on our toolkit's contents, increase visibility, and inspire more teachers to engage with this novel experiment! As we start the school year, we invite all teachers who have attended a CRISPR in a Box<sup>TM</sup> session or used CRISPR in a Box<sup>TM</sup> in their own classrooms to leave a review by scanning the QR code below or following [this link](#). Every review helps!



## School Spotlight: Cape Henlopen

We were delighted to journey down to Sussex County to hold a Learning Lab at Cape Henlopen High School last May! We guided students through CRISPR in a Box<sup>™</sup>, taught them the basics of gene editing, and learned about their career hopes and challenges. Our class was incredibly insightful, asking valid questions about the future of gene editing and what it would mean to have cancer treatments that were accessible to more people through this novel technology. Moreover, students were thrilled to get the opportunity to work with DNA and be a part of the CRISPR revolution taking the biotech world by storm.



"We are the first school in Sussex County to participate in this educational experience," said Rachael Smith, Cape High biology teacher. "The first-hand knowledge our students have received by participating in this experiment will be something they are able to take with them as they move on to take college level science courses."

We were proud to share CRISPR in a Box with a crop of new students, and we're so thrilled to see them take it and run! Look out, Sussex County - there's a new group of scientists on the move!

## Cvent is open!

We're excited to announce that our booking platform Cvent is open! Because of limited staff capabilities for this upcoming school year, we are only keeping our Cvent open until **12/18/25!** Please register beforehand to make sure you get a spot!



1,400+ students  
reached



20+ schools  
engaged



51 workshops  
hosted



## NSTA: A Chance for New Connections

We were happy to join Carolina Biological Science Company at the National Science Teachers Association conference this year! Attending conferences like these reminds us that we're not alone in the informal education space. It was a revolutionary experience for our science team, giving us both the chance to teach and learn all in a few short days. We led teachers through a CRISPR in a Box<sup>™</sup> experiment in a Carolina Science workshop, and we attended the many workshops, roundtables, and seminars offered by the conference.

We saw the education space through new perspectives while maintaining our core mission: to bring accessible education to as many students as possible. We even saw teachers that we had previously worked with, giving us a touchstone back to Delaware! With the lessons we've learned from this conference, we're excited to raise our program to the next level. Thank you to NSTA for welcoming us into this space. We hope to see you again soon!



## A University Collaboration: INBRE & FORGES

Working close to the University of Delaware means we get to foster unique opportunities between our translational laboratory and their educational model. Two of those collaborations, INBRE (through our friends at ChristianaCare Health Services) and FORGES (through the UD CHARM program), brought bright new students through our doors to perform CRISPR in a Box<sup>™</sup> at a collegiate level. We toured the lab together, fielded questions about the future of research, and forged connections between the theoretical and the clinical application of new concepts.



# Our Reach

WE'VE ENGAGED OVER 2,000 STUDENTS SO FAR, BUT WHERE DO THEY COME FROM? WE'RE PROUD TO HAVE REACHED ALL THREE COUNTIES IN DELAWARE, DEMYSTIFYING GENE EDITING AND BUILDING A PIPELINE OF FUTURE SCIENTISTS WITH FRESH PERSPECTIVES ON THE ADVANCEMENT OF CRISPR.



# Happy 10<sup>th</sup>, GEI!



Ten years out from our initial formation in the Helen F. Graham Cancer Center, we're still committed to groundbreaking research, novel solutions to inequities in treatment, and education that demystifies and illuminates gene editing for all. We celebrated our ten years of achievements earlier this summer, bringing together collaborators, friends, and even alumni of the Learning Lab to share in our accomplishments and look back at the path we've traveled thus far.

We're tremendously honored to continue serving the community around us, and we thank you for reading through our newsletter. Together, we hope to bring new leaders into the limelight and continue providing exceptional learning opportunities for the scientists of tomorrow.

## Check out our website!



## Thanks to our supporters!

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