

Gene Editing 360™

February 2024

It's almost spring and we're proud to share a few updates on all that we have accomplished over the fall! Since the launch of Learning Lab this school year, we're on track to host 600+ students to perform the CRISPR in a Box™ experiment! Educators can not only participate in Learning Lab, but they can also bring CRISPR in a Box™ to their classroom, just ask us how!

As the school year continues, we're excited to hopefully achieve our goal of hosting 1,000 students through our Learning Lab programming. Although our focus is mainly on Delaware students, we're excited to slowly start expanding and engaging teachers in Maryland and Pennsylvania.

Stay tuned for our next newsletter for more exciting updates from this school year!

Program Stats and Enhancements:



350+ students served with 200+ scheduled to attend this spring.



17 schools reached across the state of Delaware, 10 of which are new to Learning Lab.



We've expanded into Kent and Sussex County, Delaware, with plans to reach Pennsylvania and Maryland in early 2024.



Four new activities have been incorporated into our curriculum to support student retention and engagement.



We welcomed Sarah LaTorre and engaged new partners and volunteers to grow our team.

We are halfway through the school year, with only twenty available sessions remaining.

Please send an email to Sarah LaTorre at Sarah.LaTorre@christianacare.org to learn more and book today.



Sarah's Journey

I joined this program as a rising senior at Wilmington University's College of Health and Natural Sciences, pursuing a degree in biology. I knew to expect a lab experiment, but I couldn't have predicted the incredible community I found in my team. Working with students alongside Amanda Hewes has been an incredibly gratifying experience, and hearing their stories of what sparked their interest in STEM and CRISPR makes this a truly unforgettable experience. I've gained so much knowledge since my start in the fall, and I'll be taking on more responsibility as we move into the spring, because **Amanda Hewes is expecting her second child this March!**

While Amanda is out on leave, I will be stepping into a leadership role in the Learning Lab and continue to host and instruct students on our CRISPR in a Box™ experiment with support from the institute, as well as a volunteer or two. Don't worry; all Learning Labs booked after March will still receive the same valuable experience and have the opportunity to speak to scientists about their journey through bioscience.

Thank you for your continued support, and we're excited to see you this spring!

See you soon,

Education Program Intern

A Promising Partnership:

A new collaboration with Junior Achievement!

This fall, we began a collaboration with Junior Achievement, a national nonprofit that provides resources for young people to build their technical and professional skills as they move into the workforce. We brought JA of Delaware students into our lab, where they met with our research scientists to discuss their journeys and what resources they were glad to have as they advanced in their careers.

"Junior Achievement's mission is to inspire and prepare young people to succeed, so they become contributing members of society and achieve their goals," said Denise Christiansen, work-based learning director of Junior Achievement. "Although Junior Achievement doesn't focus only on STEM careers, we're trying to help prepare all students for the future, and that includes new fields like gene editing. There's a natural place where we connect, and our goals are very much in alignment: we want to help students."

Since beginning this partnership, we've brought in two classes of excited students from William Penn High School and Odyssey Charter High School, where we met students looking at careers ranging from healthcare to biomedical research. Niki, one of these interested students, found the program helpful in laying the foundation for her work.

"It was a great insight into the world of biology and genetics," said Niki. "I am especially fond of microbiology, and I've always wanted to work with DNA and other organisms. I'm considering going into immunology, and the skills I've learned here could be applied to that career."

We're grateful for JA's partnership and continued support of our program.

Learn more at jausa.ja.org.



Odyssey Charter School, AP Biology Students

Do you enjoy learning about new healthcare advances, fascinating treatments, and groundbreaking research?

We have just the podcast for you. 'For the Love of Health,' ChristianaCare's new podcast starring Megan McGuriman and Michael Chesney, discusses the novel solutions to problems long plaguing the world of healthcare. Check them out on your favorite podcast app or the link [here](#), and tune in to the episode on Patient-Centered Gene Editing, featuring our director Eric Kmiec, Ph.D.! Keep an eye on that page for the future; you may see some familiar faces soon!

Introducing Gene Editing 360™'s Teacher Advisory Board!

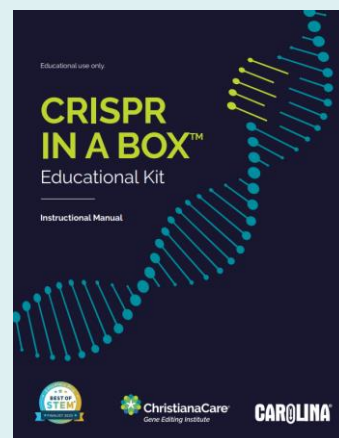
We created a Teacher Advisory Board to help us fulfill our mission of *empowering, inspiring, and engaging the next generation of scientists committed to advancing gene editing technology!* Our board members consist of educational professionals within the tri-state area who will be crucial in helping us enhance our curriculum and bring in more students from around the state and beyond.

Meet our advisory board members inspiring us forward below:

- Dr. Michael Buoni - Delaware Technical Community College
- Dr. Jayatri Das - The Franklin Institute
- David Eroh - Brandywine High School
- Dr. Phillip Kudish - Caravel Academy
- Danielle Marino - The Franklin Institute
- Russell Mauger - St. George's Technical High School
- Melanie Mundell - Newark Charter High School
- Dr. Gulnihal Ozbay - Delaware State University
- Mike Valenti - Charter School of Wilmington
- Leah Wolf-Davidson - Archmere Academy

Evolution of Our Science: Teaming up with Carolina Biological

After years of collaboration, the Gene Editing Institute has officially begun a partnership with Carolina Biological, one of the nation's leading providers of education materials. If you've purchased lab materials and supplies to coincide with your science curriculum, there's a good chance that Carolina Biological was the distributor. From pipettes to biological displays and models, Carolina has been bringing novel experiments to teachers and students for nearly 100 years.



We've updated our CRISPR in a Box™ kit to be more user-friendly and cost effective. It now has the option to come with perishables or for perishables to be sent later using a voucher. We're extremely proud of our collaboration and this new partnership.

Help us reach our goals!

Every dollar we receive goes towards expanding our programming, reaching new students through our partner organizations and schools, and providing resources to empower Delaware teachers to bring CRISPR into their classrooms. We want to sincerely thank our donors and partners for their continued support.

Interested in partnering? We would love to hear from you!

Email geneeditinginstitute@christianacare.org to learn more about our sponsorship opportunities.



Check out our
website!