

Gene Editing 360™

September 2023

A message from our Gene Editing 360™ Team

It's been an exciting year for us at the Gene Editing Institute. We launched a new program known as Learning Lab this past March, anticipating a couple pilot sessions, and received an overwhelming response of 12 Learning Labs. This helped us hone the experience and bring CRISPR in a Box™, our educational toolkit, to more high school and college students throughout all of Delaware. We weren't sure what to expect, but four schools and over 150 students later, we know it's a hit!

If you haven't heard of our program, Gene Editing 360™, it's the education and outreach arm of ChristianaCare's Gene Editing Institute. As an institute, we are dedicated to empowering, engaging, and inspiring the next generation of scientists committed to advancing gene editing technology.

Since its inception in 2019, Gene Editing 360™ has expanded and transformed over the years from panel discussions with our expert scientists to expanding the CRISPR in a Box™ experiment to students and educators in Delaware, Pennsylvania, and North Carolina. This year we are striving to reach more students across Delaware and ensure that more people have access to an institute-level lab space. To help us reach our goals, we've partnered with Carolina Biological to make our toolkit nationally available. With these big steps, we are striving to provide tools and guidance for the next generation of leaders, scientists, and students interested in STEM.

With your support, our dedicated team knows we can reach our goals. We are ecstatic to see how our program grows and impacts Delaware.

Thank you for your support,



Education Program Manager



Welcome

Sarah LaTorre!

We're excited to announce that our team has grown this fall with our first Education Program Intern. Please welcome Sarah LaTorre to the Gene Editing 360™ group! While interning with us, she'll be completing her final semester at Wilmington University to receive her undergraduate degree in Biology. Sarah has a wealth of educational experience, from working alongside NASA through the NASA Delaware Space Grant Consortium to conducting DNA sequencing for the Delaware Environmental Institute.



Learning Lab Launch:

New program model launch is a success!

This past spring, we launched our Learning Lab program, a free, immersive field-trip experience where students perform a real gene editing experiment.

From this spring's programming, we had the chance to work with over **150 students** from Wilmington University, Charter School of Wilmington, St. Georges and Delcastle Technical High School's, and Brandywine High School to build a strong foundation for the Learning Lab program. Students also had the opportunity to share their feedback through pre-and-post surveys and meet scientists from our research lab to discuss the various pathways they can take to pursue a career in a research institute like ours.

But it's not just a fun field trip activity. This program is helping to **build the next generation of scientists, researchers, and technicians.**

Early results from this spring's pilot experiences indicated the following:

- 60% of students increased their confidence in micropipetting and basic lab skills.
- 71% of students maintained or increased their interest in pursuing careers in STEM.
- 2 out of 3 students gained a more positive attitude toward how CRISPR and how gene editing could be used to help advance healthcare problems.

To learn more about Learning Lab, join us for a virtual info session:

Thursday, 9/28 at 1:00pm OR Tuesday, 10/3 at 1:30pm.

RSVP here if you're interested in attending <https://forms.office.com/r/kHtdQoyqFT>



Mr. Eroh's class from Brandywine High School said.....

"The best part was getting to hear from a group of accomplished women who found so many different paths to this place in their careers".

Gene Editing 360™ In the News

NBC10, 6ABC, and Good Morning Delmarva, show interest in Learning Lab!



Thanks [NBC10](#) and 6ABC for coming to our spring Learning Lab sessions! We're so grateful for the opportunity to share this workshop with others in the region.

An additional thank you goes to Good Morning Delmarva, as they interviewed our education program manager, Amanda Hewes about her role as an emerging leader and how Gene Editing 360™ is breaking barriers to introduce this technology to younger generations and build a pipeline of STEM scientists. Check it out [here!](#)

Thank you everyone!

Thank you to the schools, educators, and volunteers that have made this possible so far! We're looking forward to this upcoming school year and are on our way to reaching 1,000 students by Spring 2024.

EXTREME LAB MAKEOVER

Our Learning Lab space has received a facelift!

Interested in seeing the full design? Book a Train the Trainer or Learning Lab session!

Contact us through email at: [**geneeditinginstitute@christianacare.org**](mailto:geneeditinginstitute@christianacare.org)



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.