

Media Contact: Amanda Siegfried
214-648-3404

Amanda.siegfried@utsouthwestern.edu

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AT&T support fosters entrepreneurship at BioCenter

DALLAS – Sept. 18, 2008 – Dallas-based AT&T is providing \$750,000 over five years for BioCenter at Southwestern Medical District.

The goal of the contribution is to help tenants of the new biotech park, established by UT Southwestern Medical Center, support training in entrepreneurship as well as job creation, attraction and retention.

“We are pleased to support such a prestigious institution in this ambitious endeavor, which promises to yield positive results for years to come,” said LaQuita Hall, AT&T vice president, Southwest Core Network.

BioCenter not only will house commercial biomedical enterprises, but also will foster entrepreneurial development by providing researchers the skills they need to take their laboratory discoveries from the bench to the marketplace.

Dr. Dennis Stone, vice president for technology development at UT Southwestern, said AT&T’s support will help establish an entrepreneurial center, an area within BioCenter devoted to training researchers in the business skills they need to successfully commercialize biomedical discoveries.

“This generosity from AT&T is a wonderful example of how public-private relationships can foster entrepreneurship, and we are grateful for the company’s support,” he said.

The entrepreneurial center will host seminars and other training opportunities on topics such as writing business plans, protecting intellectual property, approaching venture capitalists, understanding competitors and marketing, and other issues.

BioCenter has been established to develop university technologies and attract existing biotech companies to North Texas. The 13-acre site – purchased from the city of Dallas for \$4.1 million and located on Inwood Drive near the medical center’s campus – is being developed in stages, with the first of four buildings expected to be ready for occupancy in summer 2009. With ultimate plans for up to 500,000 square feet of laboratory, office and research space,

(MORE)

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Office of News and Publications • 5323 Harry Hines Blvd., Dallas, TX 75390-9060 • Telephone 214-648-3404 • Fax 214-648-9119
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BioCenter will serve the full spectrum of the biotechnology and biodevice industry, providing a nurturing environment for early-stage and mature companies alike.

“BioCenter not only will aid economic growth and job creation by nurturing start-up companies,” Dr. Stone said. “It also will provide an environment that fosters excitement and career training for the next generation of innovators.”

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