

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Cobb Workforce Investment Board Visits South Cobb High School to Witness the First Cobb high school's Innovation Crescent Bioscience Program**

(February 18, 2010) The Cobb Workforce Investment board is learning first hand how South Cobb High School is implementing the Innovation Crescent bioscience program, which is a partnership of Georgia Bio and several other organizations that have come together in an effort to accelerate development of the bioscience workforce in Georgia with funding from a \$500,000 Work Ready Region (WRR) grant awarded by Governor Sonny Perdue through his Office of Workforce Development. At their February 23<sup>rd</sup> board meeting at 11:00 AM, the board will be in the classroom along side South Cobb High School students as they work on a bioscience experiment developed by Georgia Bio and its partners.

South Cobb High School is the first in Cobb County, one of 13 counties extending east to Oglethorpe County, to implement the program at the high school level. The major goals of the Innovation Crescent initiative are to create an articulated life sciences career pathway from high school to technical colleges to universities; create training for the existing life sciences industry workforce; eliminate the skills gap using Work Ready Certificates and Work Ready job profiling; and increase high school graduation rates through Certified Work Ready Communities.

Charles Craig, GaBio President, said, "GaBio and its partners are working to help improve K-12 student achievement in science and ensure Georgia has the skilled workforce to support existing life sciences industry growth and help attract new companies to Georgia. These programs undertaken in the 13-county Innovation Crescent can serve as a model for counties throughout Georgia." The Cobb Workforce Investment Board, who oversees the workforce development activities of CobbWorks, Inc. and strives to further their mission of promoting employment and education opportunities that strengthen the workforce and economic development of our community, is excited to witness how Cobb is integrating a vital program for the future success of bioscience technology in Georgia.

*Georgia Bio represents 330 pharmaceutical, biotech and medical device companies, universities, research institutes, government groups and other business organizations involved in the development of products that improve the health and quality of life of people worldwide. For more information, visit [www.gabio.org](http://www.gabio.org)*

For more information about this event, contact Nicole Carsten at 770-528-8075 or [ncarsten@cobbworks.org](mailto:ncarsten@cobbworks.org).