America’s success in the 21st Century is critically dependent upon developing a highly trained workforce for the technology and scientific sectors. Thus, improved K12 STEM education is an area of national interest and concern. The proposed Biotech Boot Camp is aimed at addressing the need for improved STEM education in Georgia by providing high school science teachers a means of increasing their content knowledge and laboratory skill proficiency in the rapidly growing field of biotechnology, making them better teachers and providing the skilled workforce needed to solve the challenges that Georgia and the nation faces.

The one-week resident workshop is a continuation of the highly successful workshops held at UGA since 2010 (see biotechbootcamp.uga.edu) with morning lectures focused on content, afternoon hands-on laboratory sessions building skills and evening discussions about how to best teach these concepts/skills in the high school classroom. The 2017 workshop will be held at the UGA NESPAL facility located in Tifton, GA on June 5 - 9. Workshop personnel will also visit the teacher’s classroom to help the teacher and his/her students carry out a hands-on biotechnology laboratory experiment (e.g. DNA Finger Printing), with the workshop providing all the required materials and equipment. Teachers will earn 4 PLU credits and 50 credit hours for the workshop and 1 PLU credit for a classroom visit. Participating teachers will also receive a $300 stipend, a 300 plus page set of bound lecture notes and materials and a classroom DNA model, in addition to free meals, lodging and mileage to and from Tifton.

Arts & Sciences Unit of Institute of Higher Education
University of Georgia—College of Arts and Sciences

Unit of Institute of Higher Education that prepares teachers & principals
Georgia Institute of Technology—College of Education

High Need LEA(s)
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Dougherty County
Fulton County
Henry County