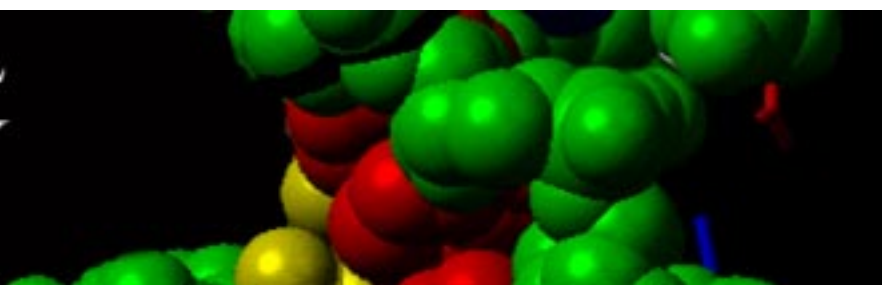


ENVIRONMENTAL BIOTECHNOLOGY INITIATIVE



The University of Rhode Island

Goals of the Initiative:

Education

Incorporate quality biotechnology education into the undergraduate curriculum.
Provide hands-on participation in cutting-edge biotech research.
Develop biotechnology workshops and teaching modules for specialized training.

Research

Foster industrial-academic collaborations and interaction.
Provide biotechnology expertise and training to URI researchers.
Build cutting-edge laboratories for Genomics, Transgenics, Imaging and Bioinformatics.

Outreach

Enhance sharing of knowledge between the research university and industry.
Develop workshops for advanced biotechnology training for industry personnel.
Educate the public on the benefits and application of biotechnology in everyday life.

Why Environmental Biotechnology at URI?

The biological sciences are being literally transformed by the emerging field of biotechnology, which is revolutionizing mankind's ability to understand and alter the genetic makeup of our biological world.

As biotechnology proliferates, the pace of new discoveries and applications is astounding. In many areas of research, knowledge is doubling in as little as four to five years. Although the triumphs of this exciting science are significant and well publicized, most scientists agree that the surface has only been broken, and that the major discoveries are yet to come.

In this new scientific arena, the methods and equipment necessary for relevant teaching and competitive research have changed. To succeed, an institution must have the right tools, and most importantly, a focus.

At the University of Rhode Island, 50 marine and environmental science faculty members propose an Initiative that will focus biotechnology on the environment. They see Environmental Biotechnology as vital to our stewardship of the global environment, and a way to expand URI's Land and Sea Grant missions into the new millennium.

URI's Environmental Biotechnology Initiative carves out a competitive niche for URI in the biological and life sciences, drawing on the University's unique marine and environmental traditions and expertise. The Initiative will develop essential laboratories, equipment, and staff. It will enhance all levels of the undergraduate and graduate educational experience, make grant funded research more competitive, and create new interfaces for sophisticated industrial outreach.

The Initiative fosters unique industry-level undergraduate research experience early on. It will teach modern biotech research methods and inspire direct interaction between students and industry scientists. Aside from improving basic education, these partnerships will also entice high-tech biotechnology companies to Rhode Island, creating jobs and helping the state compete in the New Economy.

Armed with this Initiative, URI will have the tools to distinguish itself as a continued leader in the environmental sciences by preparing students for the problems and discoveries of a new generation.