

Contact: Anthony Girardi

BIOSCIENCES ALLIANCE STATUS REPORT

Action Requested: Receive the report .

Executive Summary: Executive Director Steinke will provide an oral report on the work of the Biosciences Alliance.

Background:

The Biosciences Alliance is an advisory committee to the Iowa Department of Economic Development (IDED). The purposes of the alliance include:

- to provide guidance to the IDED for the development of Iowa's biosciences industry;
- to provide guidance to the IDED for state funding of university bioscience initiatives, i.e.: capital projects, commercialization projects;
- to assist in coordinating university and industry approaches to the development of the biosciences specific to economic opportunities.

The Biosciences Alliance includes representation from the Regent enterprise, other Iowa postsecondary institutions, agriculture, industry, government, and associations.

In September, 2005, the Biosciences Alliance's Executive Committee agreed to allocate \$1 million over two years for the implementation of a Technology Development Organization or TDO. A TDO would provide a mechanism for private sector review and consultation regarding commercialization projects. The structure and precise functions for such a TDO have not yet been determined. Staff of the Board Office and the IDED are working together to develop a shared plan concerning a TDO.

Governor Vilsack has proposed an investment of up to \$50 million from the tobacco settlement account into the human capital and the physical infrastructure needs of Iowa higher education. A proposal developed by the Regent universities would direct as much as 10% of these funds to the direct support of research commercialization through a TDO.