

# Center of Workforce Innovation for Film & TV, and Aseptic Processing & Biomanufacturing | End of Year Report Outs (Year 3 | FY25)

## Quick recap

The meeting focused on reviewing the New Jersey Pathways to Career Opportunities Initiative's Year 3 fiscal 2025 performance, highlighting achievements in aligning education with employment needs across various sectors including film and television production, esports, and biomanufacturing. Key discussions centered around the New Jersey Film Academy's expansion and success in training students for careers in the growing film industry, as well as the development of Esports Production content creation hubs that have become a national leader in digital media education. The conversation ended with an overview of the NJBioFutures Initiative, which aims to create a skilled workforce for the state's expanding biomanufacturing ecosystem through public-private partnerships and comprehensive training programs across multiple colleges.

## Next steps

- [David Bruno to continue developing the Esports Production and Content Creation Hubs with Camden County College, Brookdale Community College, and Rowan College of Burlington County.](#)
- [Diane Raver and Joan Skako to continue expanding the New Jersey Film Academy partnerships and populate the New Jersey Production Guide.](#)
- [David Bruno to help Diane Raver add esports professionals to the New Jersey Production Guide.](#)
- [Conrad McCurious, Joanie Caffaro, and Ryan Stewart to complete development of the Aseptic Biomanufacturing Certificate program by spring.](#)
- [Conrad McCurious and team to organize the next annual NJ BioFutures symposium in February.](#)

- [📅 Mercer County College to host a ribbon cutting ceremony for their biomanufacturing facility on October 16th.](#)
- [📅 Middlesex College to host a ribbon cutting ceremony for their biomanufacturing facility after Mercer's event.](#)
- [📅 Joanie Caffaro and team to continue the New Jersey Bio Experience summer program for high school students next year.](#)
- [📅 All participants to save the date for the New Jersey Pathways Summit 2026 on June 9-11 at the Hard Rock Hotel and Casino in Atlantic City.](#)
- [📅 All participants to share insights and updates using the hashtag #NJPathways on social media platforms.](#)

## Summary

### Aseptic Processing Spotlight Session

The meeting began with informal conversation about the cold weather and heating systems before David introduced a spotlight session on aseptic processing, which was described as exciting and positive. Catherine welcomed attendees and mentioned the presence of a trustee and council executive committee member, while Barbara Hall joined and shared her experience from a recent meeting. The meeting was recorded and noted by Fireflies.ai, and participants were informed about the recording and privacy policies.

### New Jersey Film Academy Initiatives

Catherine welcomed attendees to the New Jersey Pathways to Career Opportunities Initiative Year 3 fiscal 2025 year-end performance report meeting, highlighting achievements in aligning education with employment needs across various sectors. David Bruno from Camden County College discussed the Center of Workforce Innovation for film and television production, emphasizing initiatives like the Esports Production and Content Creation Hubs and the New Jersey Film Academy, which prepare students for careers in the growing film industry. Diane Raver and Joan Skako from Brookdale Community College introduced the New Jersey Film Academy, expressing gratitude for the support received and emphasizing its role in addressing the demand for skilled professionals in the state.

### New Jersey Film Academy Expansion

Diane presented an update on the New Jersey Film Academy, highlighting its expansion to 12 partner institutions and successful placement of students in work-based learning opportunities. She emphasized the academy's unique position as the only comprehensive film

and television production training program in New Jersey, with a curriculum recognized by industry leaders like Netflix. Diane also introduced the New Jersey Production Guide, a job board and resource for the film and television industry, which will generate revenue to support the academy's growth.

## **Esports Education Collaboration Success**

David presented on the success of the Esports Production content creation hubs collaboration between Camden County College, Brookdale Community College, and Rowan College of Burlington County. The project, which trains students in digital content creation rather than gaming, has seen significant growth with 17,000 students across 400 schools in New Jersey participating in esports activities. The initiative has established dual enrollment agreements, articulation agreements with universities, and provided hands-on workshops in Adobe Creative Cloud and DaVinci Resolve, making New Jersey a national leader in esports and digital media education.

## **NJ BioFutures Workforce Development Initiative**

The meeting focused on New Jersey's life sciences and biomanufacturing sector, with Conrad and his team from Raritan Valley Community College leading the Center of Workforce Innovation for Aseptic Processing and Biomanufacturing. They discussed the NJ BioFutures Initiative, which aims to create a skilled workforce for the state's expanding biomanufacturing ecosystem, particularly in cell and gene therapy technologies. The initiative involves three partner colleges - Raritan Valley, Middlesex, and Mercer County - that have established high school engagement activities and non-credit certifications in pharmaceutical aseptic cleaning, GMP Professional, and Aseptic Biomanufacturing. The colleges are working to align their curriculum and provide a clear pathway from non-credit to credit programs, with the goal of preparing students for high-paying careers in the life sciences industry.

## **Bio Experience and Adult Training**

The group discussed a successful bio experience project that brought 15 high school students from different counties to visit pharmaceutical companies including Merck, J&J, Celgene, and B1 over the summer. The program, which included hands-on experiences and networking opportunities, received positive feedback and plans to continue next year independently. The discussion then moved to adult learner programs across three colleges, with Middlesex and Mercer counties highlighting their efforts to train and counsel adult workers and dislocated individuals for biomanufacturing jobs, while Mercer specifically noted a successful GMP training course led by Johnson & Johnson that included both adult learners and industry workers.

## **NJBioFutures Partnership Progress Update**

The meeting highlighted the success of the NJBioFutures initiative, a public-private partnership led by Bob Bowden, which focuses on preparing technicians for the biotechnology sector. Conrad discussed the first annual symposium held by industry partner BMS, where awards were given, and the initiative's commitment to providing state-of-the-art facilities was celebrated with ribbon-cutting ceremonies at RVCC, Mercer, and Middlesex. Catherine emphasized the importance of the partnership model and encouraged attendees to save the date for the upcoming Pathways Summit in Atlantic City, scheduled for June 9-11.