

## Biotech center science and business team logical bedfellows

### Annual conference held at PA bio center

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The Pennsylvania Biotechnology Center near the Doylestown Airport, had its "Seventh Annual Regional Biotech Council Annual Conference" last Friday, celebrating the teamwork of science and entrepreneurship that led to tremendous economic development in the county. Many scientists and local entrepreneurs spoke to a crowd to celebrate the economic development and the Hepatitis B Foundation as well. Senator Chuck McIlhinney of the 10th Senatorial district was the honorary

guest and welcomed everyone by thanking all those that supported him and this project in the past.

"It's a skilled knowledge community, and it's treated in a way that's a little bit unusual. There's a great deal of nurture, there's a great deal of interaction of young people right out of college that are not sure on what they want to do. They could get a stipend and work until they decide if they want to go to medical school, business or graduate school," President of the Hepatitis B Foundation and Pennsylvania Biotechnology

**Continued on page 4**

## Biotech conference in Doylestown

Continued from page 1

Center Dr. Timothy Block.

While those in the industry or still in school at universities like Drexel and

Delaware Valley College were in attendance. They got the chance to learn how small companies and new ideas really blossomed in the industry with compa-

nies like Merck. Before the conference took a break half way through the day, Central Bucks Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Dr. Vail Garvin spoke briefly about she was really interested in helping anyone's business find success and would be willing to help them like she had helped several businesses that were represented that day get their feet off ground.

One individual that was heralded for helping many science industries along the east coast, let alone turning around the Pennsylvania Biotechnology Regional Center itself was Paul Raetsch. Raetsch was presented the Regional Biotech Council Award by Senator McIlhiney, Dr. Block, and numerous other peers.

"I'm kind of humbled by this because it means that some of this committee think I am a great supporter of bio-tech in the region. For somebody who's not a

## Biotech conference held in Doylestown

scientist it just means a lot to me," Raetsch said.

Block went out of his way to comment that science would not have blossomed into the bigger industry in this area without the help of people like Raetsch nurturing the combination of science and entrepreneurship. Raetsch is retired now but was the Regional Director of a Federal Agency of commerce in the Economic Development of Administration. While holding this

position he was responsible for developing the economy from West Virginia to Maine.

"The true growth of our country is going to be entrepreneurship. Nurturing little ideas into big companies, it's the only way this country is going to compete. It's a nice marriage of technology and business," Raetsch said.

The council used three crucial elements to attract scientists and businesses to come to the conference at

the Biotechnology center and that's innovation, entrepreneurship, and a region for growth. The Biotechnology center really has become an economic engine to start up and groom science industries in the region. People like Block and Raetsch will continue to build the industry and have tremendous support from the community and those in power like Senator McIlhiney.

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