



# The Boston Science Partnership

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## PRESS RELEASE

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### From Community College to University in One Easy Step

**UMass Boston - - February 27, 2009.** Bunker Hill Community College science students toured labs and met with UMass Boston researchers to peek into the world of science at UMass Boston. The visit was arranged by the Boston Science Partnership, as part of its work with the two Boston community colleges. Roba Hersi, a sophomore in Biotech, explained, "It was a great visit. I want to be oriented in a lab as my future work." Seeing firsthand how research is done could be an important experience for this young woman and her peers.

Three researchers, Professor Steve Arnason (Biology), Professor Ken Kleene (Biology), and Ellen Douglas' (EEOS) graduate student Doina Oglavie, facilitated hands-on lab experiences with the equipment and subject matters of these researchers' work. In Professor Kleene's lab, the students observed the first part of the meiosis process looking through the microscope and at the projection on a computer screen. "I was the first one to guess that it was a sperm!" gushed Roba. "We could see it spin, dissect it and see the first stage of meiosis. He answered a lot of questions."

Professor Arnason guided the students in extracting DNA and comparing the functioning of warm and cold samples. Doina demonstrated the flume that replicates water flow through a river and the effects downstream to changes. "Up close" got new meaning as the students stepped forward to look just as a spray of water hit them. "This is what it can be like in the field" quipped Doina.

After the lab experiences the students had a tour of campus and met with the transfer officer in the admissions office to talk about the transfer process, funding and the match between their community college courses and UMass Boston equivalents. Elizabeth Dunphy and Katherine Gustafson, both professors at BHCC and leaders of the STEM Learning Community at BHCC, accompanied the students. Prof Dunphy explained that "it was a great experience for our students – quick – but they got a great range of experiences." The visit



closed with talk of making it an annual opportunity for potential UMass Boston science students.

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