

For Immediate Release  
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**ROCKVILLE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT'S 4<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL POST DOC  
CONFERENCE AND CAREER FAIR ATTRACTS BIG CROWDS, BRINGS  
REGIONAL COMPANIES AND TOP TALENT TOGETHER**

Rockville, Md – Rockville Economic Development, Inc. (REDI) and the 2009 planning committee of the *S.T.E.M. 2009: Postdoc Conference and Career Fair* announced today that nearly 500 postdoctoral fellows and representatives from over twenty hiring entities participated. Recruiters from top companies including Northrop Grumman, SAIC, Booz Allen Hamilton, Qiagen, NIST, The Henry M. Jackson Foundation, BAE Systems, and FDA found a fresh group of qualified, energetic talent that they had not seen at other career fairs. The postdocs had expertise in such fields as biological science, engineering, physics, and chemistry. “We have 29 open positions in Maryland and 45 across the country,” said Qiagen recruiter Matthew Sammons, who noted that the company created a special application portal for the day’s participants.

In some cases, postdocs who were hired from fairs in previous years recruited talent for their new companies at this year’s career fair. “I came to this career fair last year in October and was hired in November,” said Amanda Fond, Ph.D, Senior Engineer/Scientist with Schafer.

“This is a collaborative effort to help talented postdoctoral fellows in the Washington region find meaningful, fulfilling positions or entrepreneurial opportunities within the greater Washington D.C. region, and to help our local companies find and hire the well-qualified talent they need to fill critical science, technology, mathematics and engineering positions,” said Sally Sternbach, Executive Director of the Rockville Economic Development, Inc., which hosted the conference.

“It’s nice to have a bunch of companies all in one place that are actually hiring for bench work and other opportunities,” said James Mullally, a Johns Hopkins postdoc at the National Institutes of Health. Other attendees highlighted the value of being able to interview with companies onsite, as well as learn from experts about important skills such as interviewing and how to direct a resume.

Dr. John Mather, the 2006 Nobel Laureate in Physics and Senior Astrophysicist in the Observational Cosmology Laboratory at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center, was the keynote speaker. CEO’s and company representatives from Kaulkin Information Systems, Juxtopia, FDA, APE-BridgePath Scientific, Sequella, CynerGene, MacroGenics, Discovery Logic, Schafer Corporation, Womble, Carlyle, Sandridge and Rice, TEDCO and the American Medical Writers Association provided valuable insights into government, corporate, and entrepreneurial career paths. Additional sessions offered insights into job interviewing and resume writing.

The annual event fosters entrepreneurship, encourages tech transfer, and introduces local companies to leading science, technology, engineering and mathematics talent. The event organizing committee consists of representatives from local, state, and federal agencies, including NIST, NIH, NASA, the Federal Lab Consortium, the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS)/Science, the National Research Council, the National Council of Entrepreneurial Tech Transfer, the Department of the Army, REDI, Montgomery Works, Fairfax County Economic Development Authority, and the National Postdoctoral Association.

Companies and postdoctoral fellows interested in participating in the 2010 S.T.E.M. Postdoc Conference and Career Fair or learning about remaining 2009 opportunities should visit [www.posdocconference.org](http://www.posdocconference.org) to submit a note of interest or call REDI at 301-315-8096.

The lead sponsors of the 2009 S.T.E.M. Postdoc Conference and Career Fair were The Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation for Entrepreneurship, the Montgomery County Department of Economic Development, and the Maryland Technology Development Corporation (TEDCO).

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#### **About Rockville Economic Development, Inc.**

The mission of Rockville Economic Development, Inc. (REDI) is to assure the City's future economic vitality. From accessing funding sources to workforce development...from educational programming to market intelligence...from advisory services to introductions to key decision-makers...REDI helps companies grow by providing knowledge, access, resources, and direction to companies at all stages of growth. REDI offers its resources to the community free-of-charge, and welcomes inquiries and referrals. For more information contact, [www.RockvilleREDI.org](http://www.RockvilleREDI.org)