MISSION

Lyndon B. Johnson High School (LBJHS) is committed to accelerating student achievement through rigorous instruction, career development experiences and extracurricular activities. The Biotechnology and Life Sciences Innovative Academy (BLSIA) program at LBJHS provides students a multitude of opportunities to engage in studies that support their career goals. This program focuses on workforce needs and partnerships leading to credentials, degrees and certificates in thriving industries where students already live.

NOTABLE DIFFERENTIATORS

Students at BLSIA can test for and earn a Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) license along with their high school diploma. Students also have the opportunity to earn an associate of science degree with an emphasis in pre-nursing and a Nurse Assistant Level 1 certificate. All students in the BLSIA program can earn up to 60 college credit hours that are transferable to institutions of higher education. Partnerships allow students unprecedented access to hands-on learning in the healthcare industry in as early as ninth grade and are invaluable to the learning experience. Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA), an international student organization for future health professionals, provides unique opportunities to engage in leadership experiences and other crucial activities that prepare students to enter the healthcare workforce.

For more information, call 956.473.5100 or visit lbj.unitedisd.org/pages/Lyndon_B_Johnson_High_School/Biotechnology_and_Life_Science
WORK-BASED LEARNING EXPERIENCES DEVELOP STUDENT AGENCY

Through its partnership with Laredo Community College, LBJHS brought together rigorous academics with applied learning to prepare students to enter the healthcare workforce. Aspiring nursing students began hands-on learning experiences with the Texas A&M International mobile nursing unit as underclassmen. Starting with basic height, weight and blood pressure intake measurements, student experiences have been designed to become increasingly advanced and aligned with the demands of the job. This approach, driven by the Industry Cluster Innovative Academy (ICIA) initiative, has accelerated learning opportunities while adhering to industry requirements for credentialing, age and experience level. Beyond just developing technical skills, these work-based experiences have exposed students to the behavioral expectations and professional norms needed for success in biotechnology and life sciences jobs.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

The parent of a student who was initially selected into the program once approached the school with concerns. She was glad that her son was selected, but was worried that the work would be too challenging for him. Six months later, that student proved to be successful in all classes and on all state tests. BLSIA provided all the support he needed to be successful. He also developed a new sense of ownership, recognizing that his hard work led to his success. The staff and partners of BLSIA understand the importance of developing student ownership, as it gives the students confidence and creates a culture of high expectations, while opening doors to opportunities in the community.

In 2017, Educate Texas was appointed by the Texas Education Agency as the technical assistance provider for the Industry Cluster Innovative Academy program. This assistance includes providing leadership coaching to each campus, creating an integrated network of schools, and establishing tools to ensure communication across schools to share learning experiences. Educate Texas, a catalyst for large-scale educational systems change, has partnered with public and private entities for more than a decade to achieve the goal of improving the public and higher education system in Texas so that every student is prepared for and achieves success in school, in the workforce and in life. edtx.org

Keys to Success:

- **Partner engagement**: Industry partners have committed to meet with BLSIA staff biannually to discuss curriculum development and alignment with current market practices.
- **Work-based learning**: A focus on employability skills is cultivated through the implementation of mentorship, internship, externship and apprenticeship programs.
- **Academics**: BLSIA students are on track to be Texas Success Initiative (TSI) complete by May 2018. Laredo Community College has set an instructional pathway for students to earn associate of science degrees.

“A kid with the right support and commitment from adults...will achieve more than we can imagine. If we take our mission to heart...the sky’s the limit.”

-Jose Iznaola, BLSIA Coordinator