Barbara Bielec

**Award:** Special Initiatives Program -- K12; $4000.00

**Title:** Program Director, BioPharmaceutical Technology Center

**Project:** A Celebration of Life XXII: Life in Space! - Elementary Session

**Abstract:** (Project Description in Proposal) A Celebration of Life XXII: Life in Space! – Middle School Session is a two‐week summer program for students entering grades 6‐8, to be held weekday mornings from 8:30am‐12:00pm, June 26‐July 7, 2017. Hands‐on activities, in outdoor, classroom and laboratory settings, are designed to engage students’ interest in science and STEM careers. In 2017 this will include a series of activities related to (1) maintaining human health in space travel; (2) experiments with plants and invertebrates that take place on the space station and in other no/low gravity environments; and (3) how we might look for signs of life on other planets. Many of the educational activities to be used are from the NASA Education Program  
(http://www.nasa.gov/offices/education/about/index.html). The program will conclude with a celebration with students’ family members and friends. For this event, students select and prepare activities to share, guests and sponsors are thanked for their support of the program, each student receives a certificate and lunch is provided.

**Biography:** Barbara Bielec received her B.S. in Genetics from UW-Madison and her M.S. in Genetics from Texas A&M University. She has secondary teaching certification in Biology, Chemistry, and Math; and has taught science to students of all ages, in many different settings for over twenty-five years. Currently she coordinates and teaches a variety of K-12 programs at the BTC Institute (www.btci.org ) including: the Youth Apprenticeship Program - Biotechnology, the Biotechnology Field Trip program, the African American Ethnic Academy (AAEA)/ BTC Institute science program "A Celebration of Life" and teacher courses and workshops through the Biotechnology Teacher Academy. This biotechnology outreach position includes grant writing and presenting at national and state conferences. Memberships include the National Association of Biology Teachers (NABT), the National Science Teachers Association (NSTA), and the Wisconsin Society of Science Teachers (WSST).

**Congressional District**: 2

**Congressional Representative**: Mark Pocan