SUMMARY

[Berkshire Community College](http://www.masshightech.com/search.html?q=Berkshire%20Community%20College&t=1) on Tuesday formally launched the cluster in a microbiology lab on campus, according to a [local news report](http://www.berkshireeagle.com/local/ci_19193806).

Nuclea Biotechnologies, a cancer research company with a genomics center in Pittsfield, announced the formation of the [high-performance computing cluster](http://www.masshightech.com/stories/2011/03/28/daily54-Western-Massachusetts-the-next-life-sciences-hub.html) on April 4 with Berkshire Community College, [Clark University](http://www.masshightech.com/search.html?q=Clark%20University&t=1), and the Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts.

The community college has been collaborating with the Massachusetts Biotechnology Council to create an associate in arts degree with a concentration in biotechnology. This fall, eight students took 12 available places in a new biotechnology course taught by Gina Foley, who the community college hired as a result of its partnership with Nuclea.   
  
The supercomputing cluster has 14.2 terabytes of storage, a 100 Mbps fiber optic Internet connection, and costs about $100,000

Nuclea first announced the cluster in April 2011 in partnership with [Berkshire Community College](http://www.berkshirecc.edu/) (BCC), and [Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts](http://www.mcla.mass.edu/) (MCLA).

The cluster allows for complex analysis of mathematical, biological, and chemical information.

The new computing cluster arrangement will be a boon to bioinformatics and educational research in the Berkshires and help solidify the emergence of BCC and MCLA as leaders in the growing biotechnology field.  The schools will use the new cluster’s computational capacity for educational research, while Nuclea will use it for commercial research.

While other computer clusters are being arranged elsewhere in Massachusetts, notably in Holyoke, most are being built with public or university dollars.  By contrast, the Berkshire cluster was funded entirely by Nuclea, and is the result of a partnership that has already resulted in jobs.

**Clark Community College has been working on a Beowulf Cluster.**

LINKS:

<http://www.masshightech.com/stories/2011/10/24/daily40-Berkshire-Community-College-starts-supercomputer-cluster.html>

<http://www.massbio.org/news/member_news/344-nuclea_biotechnologies_opens_berkshires_computer/industry_news_detail>