# Berkshire Community College starts supercomputer cluster

### By Lori Valigra, Mass High Tech correspondent

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Following an April announcement that it would be home to a new supercomputing cluster in a collaboration with Nuclea Biotechnologies Inc., [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 center is backed by a $168,874 grant from the Mass. Life Sciences Center ([MLSC](http://www.masshightech.com/search.html?q=MLSC&t=1)), matched by Nuclea, for advanced biological equipment.  
      
The company, which also has a strong R&D presence in Worcester at Clark University, said in July that it plans to expand that relationship into an official [Proteomic and Metabolomic Center](http://www.masshightech.com/stories/2011/07/11/daily22-Nuclea-and-Clark-partner-on-proteomics-center-in-Worcester.html) on the college’s campus. Patrick J. Muraca, president and CEO of Nuclea, is an alumnus of Clark.   
  
While in both cases the equipment will help students, for its part Nuclea will take advantage of the new equipment to help identify new biomarkers that indicate the presence of disease.  
  
According to the Berkshire Eagle report, Berkshire Community College President Paul Raverta said the project has three goals. First, the partners will provide the investment, infrastructure, and instruction so that Nuclea will be better able to continue its own research on cancer treatments. The project also is expected to create a specialized future workforce in life sciences, and it is expected to open up more opportunities for students.  
  
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.

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