



Dr. Michael D. McLean, PlantForm’s Director Research (right), receives Conestoga College’s Biotechnology Technician Program Industry Partner Award 2014 from Curt Monk, Chair of the Informatics and Life Sciences department; program coordinator Lindsay Schalm; and Prof. Heather Primmer (from left to right).

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### PlantForm honoured with Industry Partner Award

*Conestoga College recognizes contributions to Biotechnology Technician Program*

GUELPH, Ont., April 22, 2014—**Conestoga College** presented PlantForm Corporation with its **Biotechnology Technician Program** Industry Partner Award 2014 at a ceremony April 10.

PlantForm has made many significant contributions to the program since it began in 2006, said program coordinator Lindsay Schalm.

Dr. J. Christopher Hall, PlantForm’s Chief Scientific Officer, has been a member of the program’s advisory committee since its inception and “his insight and commitment to help us develop an outstanding program is greatly appreciated,” Schalm said.

PlantForm lab technician John Teat, a graduate of the program, regularly provides guest lectures, and this year the company participated in the program’s Life Sciences Research Project – an “invaluable” experience for the students, Schalm noted.

PlantForm also recently hired two more graduates of the program – biotechnology technicians Rebecca Pastora and Erin McMichael. Pastora will serve as a purification support specialist and McMichael as a plant treatment specialist.



“Conestoga’s Biotechnology Technician Program has been an important source of technicians for PlantForm because they have a rigorous program that develops the skills we need as our company expands and grows,” said Dr. Michael D. McLean, PlantForm’s Director of Research, who accepted the award on behalf of the company.

The program provides students with the laboratory skills, technical knowledge and fundamental understanding required for employment as technicians in the biotechnology and life science industries. Training includes practical and technical instruction in areas such as biology, biochemistry, microbiology, analytical chemistry, cell culture, molecular biology and computer applications. The applied learning environment focuses on scenarios relevant to current innovations in biotechnology.

PlantForm Corporation was formed in 2008 to commercialize a low-cost, plant-based manufacturing platform for monoclonal antibodies, protein drugs and vaccines that target cancer and other critical illnesses. The company is preparing to advance into the regulatory approval process for its first antibody product, a biosimilar version of the breast cancer drug Herceptin<sup>®</sup> (trastuzumab). Two additional biosimilar antibody drugs for cancer are in development, as are antibodies for the treatment of human immunodeficiency virus. Projected revenue is more than \$120 million by 2017.

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