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## **BUSINESS AND BIOTECH LEADERS PARTNER TO GROW LOS ANGELES AS GLOBAL LIFE SCIENCE HUB**

*CULVER CITY, Calif. (July 13, 2022)* – Business think tank leaders are partnering with California’s most powerful life science advocate to help realize the Greater Los Angeles region’s potential to become a global hub for life science innovation. With proper infrastructure, investments and industry support, these efforts to **#growLABio** will improve and prolong lives while growing jobs and bolstering livelihoods.

**BizFed Institute** and **Biocom California** are proud to co-host the first annual “**Greater L.A. Life Science Forum**” Thursday, July 14 at Bioscience LA in Culver City. The three-panel event will run from 11 a.m. to 5:15 p.m. followed by a networking reception to cement transformational partnerships between diverse industry leaders, elected officials and other attendees motivated to fuel an emerging economic engine.

Notable speakers and panel moderators include an impressive roster of influential innovators and conveners, each responsible for unique contributions to the growth of the life science industry or the health of the regional economy.

- **Joe Panetta** – Biocom California, President and CEO
- **Hon. Holly Mitchell** – Los Angeles County’s 2<sup>nd</sup> Supervisorial District (via video)
- **Hon. Anthony Portantino** – California’s 25<sup>th</sup> Senate District
- **Rohit Shukla** – Larta Institute, Founder and CEO
- **Willie Zuñiga** – Grifols Biologicals, Inc., President
- **Michael Kelly** – Los Angeles Coalition for the Economy & Jobs, Executive Director
- **Shaun Stiles** – Cushman & Wakefield, Executive Director

Panelists and presenters will discuss how private and public sector leaders can lean in to support local life science companies seeking to establish or expand their businesses; entice life science companies headquartered in other cities to relocate to L.A.; and accelerate efforts to meet local workforce needs such as housing and transportation.

The forum also aims to call attention to industry infrastructure needs. The Greater L.A. region has a 1.8% vacancy rate in wet lab and shared lab space, meaning demand is far outpacing supply. Missing opportunities to expand lab capacity, attract new job creators and retain homegrown talent could lead to the flight of this economic driver, as well as the life science industry's force-multiplying effect on local jobs growth and economic development.

In 2021, the life science industry employed nearly 100,000 people in L.A. County and generated \$60.8 billion in local economy activity, according to Biocom California's 2021 Economic Impact Report. Industry jobs have a median income of \$98,000, nearly three times the county's average income per capita of \$34,000, according to Census Bureau data.

"We're excited to partner with BizFed Institute on this forum highlighting the importance of strong ties between the life science industry and the broader business community," said **Stephanie Hsieh**, Executive Director of Biocom California's Los Angeles office. "Our 2021 Economic Impact Report found this industry has a multiplier effect of 85 cents for every \$1 generated in initial sales. The life science industry is at a tipping point in the L.A. region. We must forge partnerships that propel the industry forward to create good-paying jobs, enhance quality of life and ensure equitable opportunity for all Angelenos."

"This forum is among our newest and timeliest offerings, and we couldn't be more excited to track the real-life impacts of our intel-sharing efforts," said **Kevin Harbour**, President of BizFed Institute. "Attendees will walk away with actionable to-do's that leverage business resources to build life science opportunities that benefit us all. This is what we do — build bridges with information."

The **Greater L.A. Life Science Forum** comes on the heels of a county motion to inject more resources into supporting the life science industry. The L.A. County Board of Supervisors voted Tuesday to approve the motion by **Sup. Holly Mitchell** directing county departments to:

- Report back in 90 days with a "Life Science Cradle-to-Career" employment pipeline for underserved communities
- Develop a suite of financial incentives to support small life science companies, including tax incentives for start-up costs and hiring, business development services and customized workforce training
- Create a structure for tenant improvement funds to build out life science spaces and upgrade existing spaces for companies that hire locally
- Designate a "Life Sciences Ombudsperson" to triage and streamline jobs, and create an implementation plan
- Explore innovative approaches to zoning in industrial areas that incentivize the siting of life science companies (modeled after the San Diego Employment Mixed Use Zones)
- Resume good faith collaboration and negotiation with the Lundquist Institute at Harbor-UCLA Medical Center Campus to advance development of a biotechnology park that would incubate new companies.

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**About BizFed Institute**

BizFed Institute is a 501(c)(3) educational nonprofit that educates, engages, equips and measures consensus solutions from civically minded, nonprofit, academic and regional thought leaders for the purpose of building strong communities throughout California. The Institute was founded in 2010 to complement the boots-on-the-ground advocacy efforts led by the Los Angeles County Business Federation "BizFed."

**About BizFed**

BizFed is a massive grassroots alliance that advocates for policies and projects that strengthen the regional economy. Leveraging power in numbers, BizFed explores all sides of critical issues and takes timely action to spur business growth, job creation and economic vitality across diverse sectors and communities throughout Southern California. The BizFed family comprises more than 215 diverse business organizations representing 410,000 employers with 5 million employees throughout Los Angeles County.

**About Biocom California**

Biocom California, a BizFed member, works on behalf of more than 1,600 members to drive public policy, build transformative connections between industry leaders, create access to capital, shape value-driven purchasing programs and introduce cutting-edge workforce development and STEM education programs. Biocom California provides the strongest public voice for research institutions and life science companies that fuel the California economy.

## **GREATER L.A. LIFE SCIENCE FORUM: PROGRAM**

**11:00am – 11:30am | Registration and Networking**

**11:30am – 11:40am | Welcome: Opening Remarks**

[Kevin Harbour](#), President, BizFed Institute

[Stephanie Hsieh](#), Executive Director of Los Angeles, Biocom California

**11:40am – 11:50am | Welcome: Flash Poll Results**

[Ruth Drizen-Dohs](#), Owner, DDCC, Inc.

[Matthew Klink](#), Partner, California Strategies, LLC

**11:50am – 12:50pm | Lunch**

**12:50pm – 1:10pm | Keynote Speakers**

Introduction by: [Joe Panetta](#), President & CEO, Biocom California

[Supervisor Holly Mitchell](#), 2nd District Los Angeles County

[Senator Anthony Portantino](#), California's 25th Senate District

**1:10pm – 2:05pm | Panel Discussion: "What is Life Science?"**

[Abner Mason](#), Founder & CEO, SamesSky Health

[Bassil Dahiyat](#), CEO, Xencor

[Jessica Droge](#), Vice President, Amgen

[Monica Jain](#), Venture Partner, Wavemaker Three-Sixty Health

Moderated by: [Rohit Shukla](#), Founder & CEO, Larta Institute

**2:05pm – 2:20pm | Networking Break**

**2:20pm – 3:00pm | Fireside Chat**

Special Guest: [Guillermo "Willie" Zuñiga](#), President, Grifols Biologicals, Inc.

Moderated by: [Stephanie Hsieh](#), Executive Director of Los Angeles, Biocom California

**3:00pm – 3:55pm | Panel Discussion: "What Can You Do? Impact on Overall Business Community"**

[Karmin Noar](#), Executive Director, Biocom California Institute

[Stephen Cheung](#), Chief Operating Officer, Los Angeles County Economic Development Corporation

Moderated by: [Michael Kelly](#), Executive Director, Los Angeles Coalition for the Economy & Jobs

**3:55pm – 4:10pm | Networking Break**

**4:10pm – 5:15pm | Panel Discussion: "Where and How We Can Grow?"**

[Allan Glass](#), Co-Founder & Managing Partner, HATCHspaces

[Brian Spence](#), Architect and Founding Principal, BAM Creative

[Felicia Williams](#), Senior Vice President, Kosmont Companies

[Melanie Cohn](#), Senior Director of Regional Policy & Government Affairs, Biocom California

Moderated by: [Shaun Stiles](#), Executive Director, Cushman & Wakefield

**5:15pm – 7:00pm | Networking Reception**