

SUCCESS STORY



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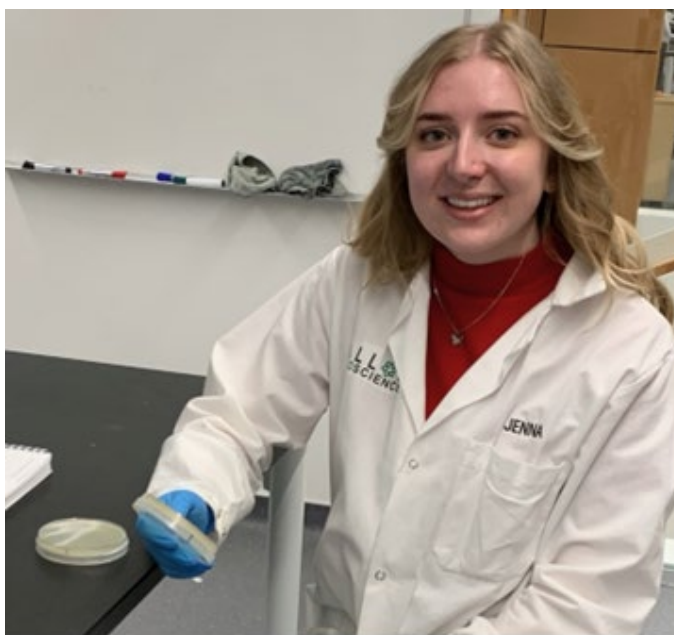
www.allosbioscience.com

Lethbridge continues to produce strong players in the life sciences ecosystem in Alberta. One example of a such a company is Allos Bioscience. The company emerged out of a University of Lethbridge research project with commercial applications. Now Allos Bioscience develops biosensors that detect carbohydrates for agricultural and human health applications.

When it comes to commercializing his work, Dr. Harland Brandon notes that he and business partner Luc Roberts “didn’t realize how much work *other* than science is needed” to run a business; the science and the business bleeds together. “WIL opportunities allow us to have extra hands on staff while we focus on business development, grant writing, and the higher level science.” He believes in the importance of the on-the-job training that WIL opportunities provide: “If some of these opportunities existed when I was an undergrad it would have changed my whole trajectory.”

Having that hindsight has proven to be beneficial for both Allos Bioscience and the students they hire. Jenna Sullivan just completed her third co-op term at Allos Bioscience where she worked on the purification and characterization of a particular protein. Starting from the protein code and going through the scientific process to the end result was a new experience for her, and she found satisfaction in obtaining results from her work.

Jenna originally applied for a position at Allos because it seemed aligned with her degree and her learning objectives. She stayed because she wanted to continue working on her project and liked her coworkers. Her experience at Allos



Jenna in the Allos Lab

allows her utilize her scientific, business and interpersonal skills as she moves to the next level of her education. Jenna starts her Master's degree in May 2022 and will continue to collaborate with Allos as she pursues her graduate research.

When asked of Jenna's particular contributions to Allos, Dr. Brandon was quick to answer that Jenna has been super helpful and brought Allos closer to product launch. He also points to students as the future of the life sciences economy in Alberta: "The scientists know how the research can be done, but there needs to be more indication that the research can lead to business opportunities. Training is needed both in the scientific research and business areas to make Alberta a biotech hub."

WIL VOUCHER

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