



## Press Release

R00063

11 Sept. 2013

Brock University – Communications & Public Affairs  
905-688-5550 x4687

### **BioLinc is in Business: Biosciences incubator at Brock University ready to accept first tenants**

Niagara's much-anticipated business incubator – BioLinc – was formally launched into action today by Brock University and area economic development partners.

The incubator is a major initiative, funded by the federal government, and by local partners, to align university researchers with private-sector entrepreneurs, and expand Canada's economy by converting innovations and discoveries into knowledge-based commercial enterprises.

Operating under Brock's Goodman School of Business, BioLinc provides space and an environment where students, researchers and companies collaborate to turn knowledge into marketable products and services. Located in Brock's new Cairns Family Health and Bioscience Research Complex, the incubator will inevitably have an emphasis on bioscience-related breakthroughs.

"BioLinc will emphasize collaboration by removing the barriers that stand between innovative ideas and commercial success," says Jack Lightstone, President, Brock University. "This incubator will bridge the gap between scientific discovery and business opportunity by bringing the people who come up with and develop an idea together with the people who can sell it."

In practice, BioLinc provides a place of expertise for Brock science students who have an idea that may have market potential. BioLinc gives students access to the University's resources and researchers to develop ideas, and connects them with the necessary expertise to access the market and build ideas into viable business ventures.

"We have the capacity to accommodate an ever-changing mix of student entrepreneurs, researchers and companies," says Don Cyr, Dean, Goodman School of Business. "Our student consulting service is also setting up at BioLinc, providing new, real-life learning opportunities for our students and providing business support services for the tenants of BioLinc."

With a focus on growing Niagara's biosciences industry cluster, BioLinc was launched with an \$843,000 contribution from the Federal Economic Development Agency for Southern Ontario (FedDev Ontario) through its Prosperity Initiative. The incubator is a hub of 4,000 square feet of lab space, offices, meeting rooms and research

infrastructure that is designed to encourage people working together to solve problems and develop viable solutions.

“Our Government is proud to support projects like this one that have the capacity to increase business opportunities for our entrepreneurs in the bioscience fields,” says the Honourable Gary Goodyear, Minister of State for FedDev Ontario. “I congratulate Brock University on the official opening of BioLinc – a facility that will advance innovative research and ideas into viable business opportunities in St. Catharines and southern Ontario.”

“I couldn’t be happier to see BioLinc ready to help grow and diversify our economy,” says Rick Dykstra, MP for St. Catharines. “The way forward is to combine innovation with entrepreneurship and I believe BioLinc will be the catalyst for collaborations that will greatly benefit our community and beyond.”

Follow BioLinc on Twitter @BioLinc.

Follow the Goodman School of Business on Twitter @GoodmanSchool and Like it on Facebook.

**About BioLinc:** Operated by Brock’s Goodman School of Business and part of Innovate Niagara’s network of incubators, BioLinc is a bioscience, biotechnology and biomanufacturing facility housed within the Cairns Family Health and Bioscience Research Complex at the University. BioLinc helps transform today’s leading-edge research opportunities into tomorrow’s robust business opportunities by providing students, researchers and private sector companies with a forum to connect, collaborate and commercialize concepts.

**About the Goodman School of Business:** Based at Brock University in St. Catharines, Ont., the Goodman School of Business is accredited by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business international. The school is home to more than 2,600 undergraduate students, 350 graduate students and has 7,000 alumni worldwide.

**About Innovate Niagara:** Innovate Niagara helps entrepreneurs in high-growth industries to start, grow and succeed. Innovate Niagara is a Regional Innovation Centre (RIC) funded through the Ontario Network of Entrepreneurs (ONE). Formerly known as nGen - Niagara Interactive Media Generator, Innovate Niagara was renamed in 2013 to reflect their expanded mandate to serve emerging sectors and high-growth industries through business advisory services, tools and resources including a network of business incubators. Follow Innovate Niagara on Twitter @InnovateNiagara.

**About FedDev Ontario:** Created in 2009, FedDev Ontario supports the southern Ontario economy by building on the region's strengths and creating opportunities for jobs and economic growth. In Budget 2013, the Government of Canada demonstrated its continued commitment to workers, families and communities in southern Ontario with the renewal of FedDev Ontario. For more info: [www.FedDevOntario.gc.ca](http://www.FedDevOntario.gc.ca)

**For more info:** Jeffrey Sinibaldi, media relations, Brock University, 905-688-5550 x4687; [jsinibaldi@brocku.ca](mailto:jsinibaldi@brocku.ca)