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## **Concordia Fibers Recognized by Tech Collective for its Excellence in Workforce Development**

*Company dedicated to further training and enhancing skills of its employees*

Coventry, R.I., October 22, 2007—Concordia Fibers, [www.concordiafibers.com](http://www.concordiafibers.com), an innovator in specialty fiber based medical implants and scaffolds for regenerative medicine, was recognized today for its Excellence in Workforce Development at the second annual Rhode Island Innovation Awards and Tech Laureates Night.

Honored at the event sponsored by Tech Collective in collaboration with the Providence Business News and the Rhode Island Economic Development Corporation, Concordia Fibers was singled out as the company that most exemplified Tech Collective's mission related to workforce development of "building a pipeline of highly skilled workers that will support the technology industries now and in the future."

"The Tech Collective has selected Concordia Fibers as the 2007 recipient of the recognition for Excellence in Workforce Development due to its commitment to train and retain its dedicated workforce as part of the company's transformation to the biomedical manufacturing industry," commented Kathie Shields, Director of Tech Collective. "Instead of possibly losing their jobs and becoming unemployed, these workers were given the opportunity to learn new skills in a high tech/high growth industry, along with the potential to increase their income and opportunity for promotion."

In addition to the significant contribution that Concordia has made on behalf of its employees, funding for the training has also been provided by the Rhode Island Biotechnology/Biomanufacturing Training Initiative, an H-1B training grant funded by the U.S. Department of Labor which is managed by the Tech Collective and the Workforce Partnership of Greater Rhode Island. In 2004, Concordia Fibers became a partner company in this initiative and to date has received over \$190,000 of employee training including both individual and group onsite education. By the grant's end in December 2007 it will be close to \$240,000.

"We are thrilled to be recognized for our commitment to training our employees and helping them to best succeed and grow with us particularly as we continue to grow Concordia Medical and partner with innovative companies and researchers in the medical community," commented Randal Spencer, President & CEO, Concordia Fibers.

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