

WELCOME TO THE *CHOOSE FRAMINGHAM NEWSLETTER*



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Business Profile: Berg

Berg goes "back to biology" for a healthier tomorrow

[Berg](#) began its bio-pharma work in 2006. Once based in Natick, the

Back to School Interview!

Choose Framingham Speaks with Framingham State U's President Dr. F. Javier Cevallos about What's in Store for the City's Four-Year, Higher Education Institution

company's growth and increasing needs brought them to Framingham, they opened their doors here in 2013.

BERG is working to develop treatments for individuals through its unique AI-based platform, Interrogative Biology®. Using a patient's own biology, they are able to discover and develop drugs, diagnostics, and healthcare applications for that individual or disease. The platform utilizes patient population health data to bring actionable Patient Intelligence (™) to precision medicine applications. This means faster discovery and development of treatments, more effective precision treatments for individuals as well as a reduction in costs to healthcare systems. Their product portfolio includes work in oncology, neurology, and endocrinology.

The team at BERG is now taking the next steps in streamlining their focus areas and driving deliverables to get pipeline candidates tested, approved, and most importantly, in the hands of the patients and caregivers whose lives are affected by the devastating diseases they are working so hard to tackle.

Since coming to Framingham, they have found that the area is the ideal spot for their company - easy access to the city and the airport, but without the costs and traffic associated with a downtown office. As the biotech industry in Framingham continues to grow, they can attract top-tier professionals and recent graduates from internationally recognized schools. The location is ideal for young professionals who may be looking to settle down in a growing community with a high-quality school system and expanding community offerings.

In addition to being a supportive community for its employees, Framingham has been the right place for BERG to call home as it is a cost effective area to do business. It allows the company to invest more money into bringing new treatments and hope to millions of people. Having a dense biotech population also provides them with the opportunity to work in collaboration with other industry leaders in the



Summer is coming to an end, which means that soon college students will be returning to [Framingham State University \(FSU\)](#).

Established in 1839 as the first public normal school in the nation, Framingham State University has grown in prestige and size

in recent years. Currently, FSU offers 35 bachelor degrees to more than 4,100 undergraduate students and 24 master degree programs to more than 1,500 graduate students. [Choose Framingham](#) caught up with FSU's [Dr. F. Javier Cevallos](#) about exciting developments at the school and what he is looking forward to during the 2018-2019 academic year.

There's a lot going on right now with Framingham State University! Give us a rundown on some of the exciting developments with the university, including the \$14.3 million that the school received from the state for the collaborative education center?

Among the many things happening at FSU, one of the most exciting is the renovation of the Johnathan Maynard Building to house the Danforth Museum, as well as our Ceramics and Sculpture studios. After three years of being closed to the public, I think the entire community is excited to experience a *reopened and rejuvenated Danforth*. And of course, incorporating the museum into the University offers wonderful opportunities for our faculty and students.

We are also developing a new program in *Hospitality Management* that I am sure will be very attractive to prospective students and employers in the region. We continue to add to our 4+1 offerings, which give students who intend to pursue a graduate degree the opportunity to earn both their bachelor's degree and master's degree in just five years, saving them a year of time and money. Our newest opportunity is in Food and Nutrition.

Finally, we are thrilled to have recently received a *\$1 million grant from the prestigious Howard Hughes Medical Institute (HHMI)*. This funding will go toward closing achievement gaps among first-generation and minority students in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics, or STEM. The effort is a big step in our campus-wide commitment to diversity and inclusion.

As for the \$14.3 million, this is just an authorization, not an appropriation, so it means the idea has been endorsed, but not funded. We hope it will be funded at some point in the future.

FSU was also just ranked #1 in New England for its [fashion merchandizing program](#). Tell us a little bit more about that program and how it contributes to the region's fashion industry?

For many years, Framingham State has been recognized for leadership in [Fashion Design and Retailing](#). More recently, we garnered some national attention when two of our young alums, Nathalia JMag '15 and Cornelius Ortiz '16, appeared on the popular television show Project Runway. I believe the recognition speaks to the quality of our faculty and the programs

area. This only helps the company as they work to "help the greater good."

For more information on Berg, Like them at [Facebook](#) and follow them on [Twitter](#).

New to Framingham: Replimune

The Life Sciences community in Framingham continues to grow. In July, the Woburn-based company [Replimune](#) announced that it is coming to Framingham to continue its work manufacturing cutting-edge cancer treatments.

Replimune was founded in March 2015. Since then, they have successfully developed Imlygic, a pharmaceutical that was approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to treat advanced melanoma. Their world-class team of scientists, clinicians, and advisors continues to work to advance the field in the development of cancer treatments.

Replimune will be moving to 33 New York Ave, leasing over 63,000 square feet of manufacturing space in the building that once housed the *Metrowest Daily News*. The company is currently preparing to raise \$100 million through an initial public offering later this year. For more information on Replimune's move to Framingham, read more at the [Metrowest Daily News](#).

we offer. Locally, our fashion and merchandizing alumni are working at top companies throughout the region, including Wayfair, TJX Companies, and Reebok International.

FSU is also focusing quite a bit on STEM and Life Sciences. How are you working to connect with the region's growing Life Sciences sector?

We have developed specific programs to address the needs of the sector. We have a Professional Science Master Degree in Biotechnology with a specialization in Quality Assurance that was created in response to the industry, and we just launched a new Masters of Business Administration in Biotechnology Operations. All of our professional programs have Advisory Boards comprised of people that work in the specific sectors, so our programs respond directly to their needs.

You were just named one of the [50 Power Players](#) by the Worcester Business Journal. How have you worked to position FSU as an important part of both Greater Boston and the Worcester regions?

We are fortunate to be located right between the state's two largest cities so we can benefit and contribute to both regions. As a public university, we strive to fill the needs of the region we serve, and I am delighted to have a growing presence in the Worcester area. Over the last couple of years, we have made a concerted effort to increase our visibility in the area. We have been fortunate to receive positive press coverage for some of our initiatives, such as our [Entrepreneur Innovation Center](#) and our [FSU@MassBay](#) program, which gives students the opportunity to earn an FSU bachelor's degree on the MassBay campus at a reduced rate. The rising cost of higher education and the declining population among college-going high school students has pushed us to be more innovative in how we recruit students.

What is being located in Framingham like and what advantages does Framingham bring to FSU?

Framingham is an ideal city for a university. It has a wonderfully diverse population that creates a rich cultural life in the community. Our location allows us to maintain a beautiful, green, New England campus, while being just minutes from a booming economic corridor with global companies such as Bose, EMC, Staples, and TJX Companies. This allows us to offer students outstanding internship opportunities. For students seeking the experience of a big city, Boston and Worcester are reachable in under 30 minutes. I'm obviously biased, but I think we may have the most ideal location in the state.

How does FSU work with the city? What more do you hope to do with city staff?

We engage with the city in multiple ways. Many of our faculty, staff and students live in Framingham, and contribute to the civic life with their activities. We shop in local stores and eat in local restaurants. We volunteer at numerous non-profit organizations, serving on their boards, contributing to their fundraising efforts, participating in volunteer service projects. Our [MetroWest Economic Research Center](#) is a valued source of information and data that helps shape decisions for growth and development. We have great partnerships with the educational institutions in town (Framingham Public Schools, Keefe Tech, Mass Bay Community College). We also collaborate with the

Metrowest Chamber of Commerce and our students do many internships with organizations in the region. Finally, Mayor Spicer and her staff have been extremely supportive of the University over the past year and we look forward to building upon that relationship.

What's next for Framingham State University?

We recently created a partnership with the Metrowest Nonprofit Network. There are thousands of non-profits in the area, and our plan is to prepare the next generation of highly skilled nonprofit employees in the region through workforce and leadership development. We are also getting ready for the start of another academic year and are extremely excited to welcome students back to campus.

Anything you'd like to add?

This is a great time for the City of Framingham and for Framingham State University. There are so many new things happening in the city making it an even more attractive place to live and work, and we are delighted to be part of that excitement and growth. I'd like to invite members of the public to take advantage of the many resources we have on campus, including our robust [Arts & Ideas](#) series of lectures, performances, and events that are free and open to the community. You can learn more about everything happening on campus on our [website](#) or via our [social media](#) pages. Finally, be on the lookout for the reopening of the Danforth Museum next spring!

Get On Board the Metrowest Express

New Intercity Bus Links Framingham to Boston, Promotes Reverse Commuting



On Wednesday, August 1st, Metrowest/495 Transportation Management Association (TMA) launched a new transportation option for commuters traveling to and from Boston and Framingham. In particular, the [Metrowest Express](#) will serve reverse commuters who live in the Boston area but work at one of the major corporations

located in the Framingham Technology Park and the 9/90 Corporate Center.

The service is a partnership between the [Metrowest TMA](#) and [LimoLiner LLC](#) and is sponsored by the City of Framingham, the Metrowest Chamber of Commerce, and the City of Boston, among other [supporters](#). The buses are operated by LimoLiner, who is also managing the ticketing for the service. Currently, the

Metrowest Express is running twice a day, leaving Boston at 7:00 am and 6:15 pm.

"With a growing Life Sciences sector and a number of international corporations in Framingham, it was just common sense to create the Metrowest Express," said Arthur Robert, Director of Framingham's Community and Economic Development Division. "This service provides a new option for Boston-based workers and interns to be part of vibrant, industry-leading companies here in Framingham. Many thanks to the Metrowest TMA for their leadership, and we're looking forward to watching this important service grow."

Tickets and schedule are available at the Metrowest Express [website](#), including 10 pack passes. You can also keep up to date on the service at their Twitter account, [@mwestexpress](#).

Fuller Middle School Project Moves Forward



In 1958, Fuller Middle School (formerly Framingham South High School) opened its doors to the community. Thousands of Framingham's children - and adults - have walked the halls for the past 60 years; in order to ensure

thousands more have the chance, Framingham Public Schools is planning renovations and updates to the facility.

Fuller Middle School does not meet today's building codes, has structural deficiencies and inoperable systems, and no longer meets the needs of students and faculty. To address these challenges, Framingham Public Schools (FPS) performed a feasibility study in cooperation with the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA).

In April, the Framingham School Building Committee selected a design plan for the school: "Folded Hands." FPS estimates that the project will cost is \$101.3 million in total. According to the Fuller Middle School Building project [website](#), "The MSBA will provide Framingham a grant of up to 61.53% of the eligible Feasibility Study and eligible design and construction costs plus incentive," with the City making up the remainder.

For more information on the project, including additional renderings of the proposed design for the renovated Fuller Middle School, please visit their [website](#).

