



Growing a strong, sustainable bioscience community is fundamentally important to attracting talent. This involves developing a workforce for the future, and the first step in this process is often focused on exciting young students about science. To this end, the Bioscience Association of Maine (BioME) organises an annual event, Bioscience Day, which is all about engaging students and giving them insight into working in a science-based role. Two employees from the Dechra office in Maine, Roberto Garcia and Caryn Thompson, were delighted to join the fourth annual Bioscience Day as volunteers and to share their experiences with the eighth-grade students at Bioscience Day.

The event involved 24 schools and over 3,300 participants with 58 volunteers from 25 companies.

Caryn presented on measuring biodiversity and the children were given an exercise to simulate sampling forest birds and learnt how to assess species diversity via simple statistics, while Roberto gave an overview of the teamwork involved in developing veterinary drugs. He also gave the students an exercise which involved working in groups to create sample project plans and Gantt charts. He explained why he was eager to participate in the day:

"Today is an opportunity for me to give back to the community, and I think it's important to try and help the students figure out what they want to do as there are so many opportunities out there."

Roberto and Caryn will be attending the fifth annual Bioscience Day, and have already begun recruiting other Dechra volunteer scientists to join them. Whether the event is held in person or virtually, exciting the next generation with the importance of science to solve real world concerns is something Dechra employees are committed to.