



NATIONAL  
**Academy**  
FOUNDATION

The mission of the National Academy Foundation (NAF) is to sustain a national network of career academies to support the development of America's youth toward personal and professional success in high school, in higher education, and throughout their careers.

**On the front cover:**

**Richmond Hill, NY, Academy of Hospitality**

**& Tourism:** Students at Queens, NY High School work with spreadsheets while learning about the hospitality and tourism industry.

*Cover photo by Melanie Einzig*

*Photo by Eileen Escarda*





# President Bill Clinton on the National Academy Foundation

In President Bill Clinton's book, "Giving: How Each of Us Can Change the World," he cites the National Academy Foundation as an exemplary model organization: "Over the next decade, employment demand in all engineering fields is projected to increase by more than 13 percent, with demand for engineering technicians increasing by nearly 12 percent. In 2005 women made up almost half the U.S. workforce, but only 10 percent of all engineers were female. African Americans comprised 10.8 percent of the workforce but only 3 percent of the engineers. The comparable figures for Hispanics were 13 percent and 4 percent.

If any NGO can make a dent in this problem, it's the National Academy Foundation.....Its established academies in finance, information technology and hospitality and tourism prepare students for college and introduce them to the world of work with the help of adult mentors and advisors..... NAF students have a high school graduation rate of 90 percent, 23 percent higher than the overall

graduation rate in the high schools in which the academy operates. More than 80 percent go on to college. Fifty-two percent complete their degrees in four years, compared to the national average of 32 percent, and they are 60 percent less likely than all students to require remedial coursework when they begin college.

NAF works in part because of the involvement of two thousand companies and thousands of mentors. If you or your business is interested in participating, your time will be well spent. The NAF model works. We just need more young people involved in it."

For more information about President Clinton's book, visit [www.clintonfoundation.org/giving](http://www.clintonfoundation.org/giving).

**Pictured above:** President Bill Clinton with National Academy Foundation Alumni Hazel del Rosario of Hawaii.

# The NAF curriculum contains essential content validated by industry, higher education and high school experts.

## What is the National Academy Foundation?

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The National Academy Foundation (NAF) was created as a partnership between business leaders and educators to address the need to prepare students for professional careers. NAF was founded by Sanford I. Weill, Chairman Emeritus of Citigroup Inc. NAF serves over 50,000 students in over 500 Academies in 41 states and the District of Columbia in urban schools through small learning communities. The National Academy Foundation operates four Academies: the Academy of Finance, the Academy of Engineering, the Academy of Hospitality & Tourism, and the Academy of Information Technology. Employees of more than 2,500 corporations are involved with local Academies, securing internships, volunteering in classrooms, acting as mentors

and serving on local Advisory Boards. The NAF curriculum contains essential content based on industry and educational expertise. NAF's record of success with 90% graduation rates and more than 80% of these graduates going on to college, has garnered the support of corporations and public policy makers, including the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. For more information visit [www.naf.org](http://www.naf.org).

# How Can the Education Community Participate?

NAF Academies are two- to four- year programs operating within high schools. Specialized NAF courses, created by educators and industry specialists, supplement and enrich the traditional school curriculum.

To participate, school districts work with NAF to develop a proposal for an Academy program in their community. Customized to meet the needs of the local business and education communities, Academies:

- **Create small learning communities** with a core group of teachers and a cohort of students who remain together through high school.
- **Encourage active participation** by local business and civic leaders through a local community Advisory Board.

- **Connect students to the world of work** through paid summer internships and industry-relevant coursework.
- **Motivate teachers** by engaging them in school improvement efforts.

Each Academy school district becomes a member of NAF's national network and receives ongoing support for program operations, including industry-specific curriculum and technical assistance for each NAF course. NAF also assists with advisory board and internship development.

**San Diego, CA, Academy of Information Technology:**  
Students at Hilltop High School in San Diego learn advanced computer skills, including the inner-workings of computers and computer applications.

*Photo by Ken Hansen*



# How Can the Business Community Participate?

**Serve as Advisory Board members of a local Academy:** Employees of corporations and businesses provide valuable experience and knowledge to high school students involved in Academies by serving as an Advisory Board member. Advisory boards help to develop and support local Academy programs through strategic planning, monthly meetings, student recruitment, budgeting, training and professional development support for teachers, fundraising and reviewing curriculum.

• **Provide paid internships to high school students:** Paid internships are a key component of the Academies of the National Academy Foundation. Corporations can provide critical support to students by exposing them to real-world work experience through a paid internship.

• **Provide financial support:** The National Academy Foundation receives significant support from some of America's most reputable and successful companies, including

American Express, Citi, Ernst & Young, Marriott, Motorola, The McGraw-Hill Companies, Pearson, Travelers, Verizon and Xerox.

• **Encourage employee volunteerism:** Business professionals can volunteer to support Academies through classroom visits to share their industry and professional experience, mentoring Academy students, reviewing curriculum to ensure alignment with industry standards, and a number of other ways.

• **Become an advocate for education reform:** Companies can support education reform by highlighting their involvement with Academies in their newsletters, brochures and annual reports. Companies can also provide paid "volunteer time off" for employees to work with Academies, and provide matching grants for employee contributions to NAF activities.

**New York, NY, Academy of Finance:**  
Students at the The High School of Economics & Finance located in New York City's financial district.

*Photo by Melanie Einzig*



One way NAF asks the business community to participate in Academies is to provide career-focused paid internships to high school students.

## What is NAF's track record of success?

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Today NAF serves over 50,000 students across the United States, and the NAF model has been replicated in the United Kingdom. According to a study conducted by researchers at Columbia University:

- More than 90 percent of Academy students graduate from high school (compared to 50 percent in major urban areas).
- Four out of five students go on to two-year or four-year colleges.
- Ninety percent of students felt the Academies helped them develop their career plans.
- Academy affiliation independently influenced whether students had planned for and been accepted into a four-year college.
- Fifty-two percent of alumni had completed a four-year college degree, compared with 32 percent of similar aged individuals nationally. Of those 52 percent, almost half were first generation college students in their families.
- Eighty-five percent of five and 10 year alumni were working in a professional field.



*“For over 25 years, the National Academy Foundation has advocated that the private business sector support public education by partnering with public schools to prepare students for college and career options. The NAF experience is extremely rewarding for everyone involved and our track record of raising high school graduation and college acceptance rates has made NAF a leading model in the high school reform movement. After all, education is really the key that can unlock the door to one’s future.”*

Sanford I. Weill  
Founder and Chairman, NAF  
Chairman Emeritus, Citigroup Inc.

*“The National Academy Foundation, with a presence in over 500 Academies in 41 states and the District of Columbia, is making a profound impact on thousands of students’ lives by connecting them to college and careers.”*

JD Hoye  
President, NAF

To learn more about NAF and its member programs, contact:



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