



2019

EMPOWERED

Katherine Blasik **Distinguished Academies**
NAF **Model Academies**

Academies committed to demonstrating exceptional fidelity directly impacts the success of NAF students.

NAF's annual Academy Assessment measures an academy's strengths and challenges in implementing NAF's results-driven educational design that prepares students for college and careers. The highest scores on the assessment are Model academies. A subset of those academies—which achieve additional thresholds—are recognized as Distinguished.

In 2018-19, NAF had over 100 academies reach Model quality level and 90 reach Distinguished quality level—72 of these academies have reached this quality level more than once and 18 are new to the roster. We are thrilled to welcome back Miami Springs Senior High School, Academy of Hospitality & Tourism, which, under new leadership, is returning as a distinguished academy after eight years. Their commitment to quality serves as a reminder that with hard work and dedication, we can deliver the highest level of quality experiences to benefit our students.

This brochure highlights the promising practices that are a testament to these academies' successes. Read on to find out how this year's Distinguished academies have united in our shared mission to provide the best opportunities for our future leaders, as they prepare to take next steps in college and careers.

We hope that you will feel empowered by the promising practices on the pages ahead. Congratulations to our 2019 distinguished and model academies—your leadership is an inspiration to the entire network and will create a ripple effect of success and innovation.



This year's brochure is dedicated to **Katherine Blasik**, NAF's Vice President of Research and Evaluation, who passed away earlier this spring. Under Katherine's leadership, NAF's continuous improvement cycle and academy assessment system became what it is today—an essential measurement tool to help academies become the strongest that they can so that our students get the best possible opportunities for success. We will always remember Katherine's commitment to quality and her passion for making the world a better place for our students.

In her honor, we are proud to call these academies the **Katherine Blasik Distinguished Academies**.

2019

KATHERINE BLASIK DISTINGUISHED ACADEMIES, NEW

Barbara Goleman Senior High School, Academy of Information Technology / Miami, FL

Barron Collier High School, Academy of Finance / Naples, FL

Barron Collier High School, Academy of Hospitality & Tourism / Naples, FL

Bryan Adams High School, Academy of Health Sciences / Dallas, TX

Carver High School, Academy of Hospitality & Tourism / Winston-Salem, NC

Emmett J. Conrad High School, Academy of Information Technology / Dallas, TX

Everglades High School, Academy of Health Sciences / Miramar, FL

Frank W. Ballou Senior High School, Academy of Hospitality & Tourism / Washington, DC

Miami Edison Senior High School, Academy of Finance / Miami, FL

Miami Jackson Senior High School, Academy of Finance / Miami, FL

Miami Sunset Senior High School, Academy of Hospitality & Tourism / Miami, FL

Olympic High School, Academy of Hospitality & Tourism / Charlotte, NC

Olympic High School, Academy of Information Technology / Charlotte, NC

Orosi High School, Academy of Engineering and Green Technology / Orosi, CA

Orosi High School, Academy of Health Sciences / Orosi, CA

Thomas Jefferson High School, Academy of Engineering / Dallas, TX

West Seneca Central Schools, Academy of Finance / West Seneca, NY

West Seneca Central Schools, Academy of Information Technology / West Seneca, NY

2019

KATHERINE BLASIK DISTINGUISHED ACADEMIES, RETURNING

Academy of Finance and Enterprise, Academy of Finance / Long Island City, NY
Alonzo and Tracy Mourning Senior High School, Academy of Hospitality & Tourism / North Miami, FL
Atlantic Technical Magnet High School, Academy of Information Technology / Coconut Creek, FL
Barron Collier High School, Academy of Engineering / Naples, FL
Barron Collier High School, Academy of Information Technology / Naples, FL
Blanche Ely High School, Academy of Information Technology / Broward County, FL
Clarence High School, Academy of Finance / Clarence, NY
Clark High School, Academy of Finance / Las Vegas, NV
Columbia Heights Educational Campus, Academy of Hospitality and Tourism / Washington, DC
Coral Gables Senior High School, Academy of Finance / Miami, FL
Coral Reef High School, Academy of Finance / Miami, FL
Crooms Academy of Information Technology / Sanford, FL
David W. Butler High School, Academy of Health Sciences / Charlotte, NC
Dinuba High School, Academy of Health Sciences / Dinuba, CA
East Forsyth High School, Academy of Finance / Kernersville, NC
East Mecklenburg High School, Academy of Engineering / Charlotte, NC
Emmett J. Conrad High School, Academy of Engineering / Dallas, TX
Emmett J. Conrad High School, Academy of Finance / Dallas, TX
Emmett J. Conrad High School, Academy of Health Sciences / Dallas, TX
Emmett J. Conrad High School, Academy of Hospitality & Tourism / Dallas, TX
Enloe High School, Academy of Health Sciences / Raleigh, NC
G. Holmes Braddock Senior High School, Academy of Information Technology / Miami, FL
Harmony Magnet Academy of Engineering / Porterville, CA
Harmony Magnet Academy of Performing Arts / Porterville, CA
Hawthorne Academy of Health Sciences / Charlotte, NC
Hialeah Gardens High School, Academy of Engineering / Miami, FL
Hialeah Gardens High School, Academy of Finance / Miami, FL
Hialeah Gardens High School, Academy of Health Sciences / Miami, FL
Hialeah Gardens High School, Academy of Hospitality & Tourism / Miami, FL
Hialeah Gardens High School, Academy of Information Technology / Miami, FL
Immokalee High School, Academy of Engineering / Immokalee, FL
Independence High School, Academy of Engineering / Charlotte, NC
J. P. Taravella High School, Academy of Finance / Coral Springs, FL
John A. Ferguson Senior High School, Academy of Hospitality & Tourism / Miami, FL
Justin F. Kimball High School, Academy of Engineering / Dallas, TX
Justin F. Kimball High School, Academy of Hospitality & Tourism / Dallas, TX

Lancaster High School, Academy of Finance / Lancaster, NY
Mallard Creek High School, Academy of Engineering / Charlotte, NC
Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School, Academy of Finance / Broward County, FL
McKinley Technology High School, Academy of Engineering / Washington, DC
McKinley Technology High School, Academy of Information Technology / Washington, DC
Miami Beach Senior High School, Academy of Hospitality & Tourism / Miami, FL
Miami Central Senior High School, Academy of Information Technology / Miami, FL
Miami Lakes Educational Center and Technical College, Academy of Health Sciences / Miami FL
Miami Lakes Educational Center and Technical College, Academy of Information Technology / Miami, FL
Miami Springs Senior High School, Academy of Hospitality & Tourism / Miami, FL
Naples High School, Academy of Engineering / Naples, FL
New Britain High School, Academy of Finance / New Britain, CT
Northeast High School, Academy of Finance / St. Petersburg, FL
Northport High School, Academy of Finance / Northport, NY
Olympic High School, Academy of Engineering & Advanced Manufacturing / Charlotte, NC
Olympic High School, Academy of Finance & Business Ownership / Charlotte, NC
Olympic High School, Academy of Health Sciences / Charlotte, NC
Palomares Academy of Health Sciences / Pomona, CA
Pathways Academy of Technology & Design, Academy of Information Technology / Hartford, CT
Phillip O. Berry Academy of Technology, Academy of Engineering / Charlotte, NC
Phillip O. Berry Academy of Technology, Academy of Health Sciences / Charlotte, NC
Phillip O. Berry Academy of Technology, Academy of Information Technology / Charlotte, NC
Porterville High School, Academy of Finance / Porterville, CA
Porterville High School, Academy of Health Sciences / Porterville, CA
Sanderson High School, Academy of Finance / Raleigh, NC
Scotlandville Magnet High School, Academy of Engineering / Baton Rouge, LA
Skyline High School, Academy of Hospitality & Tourism / Dallas, TX
Southern Lee High School, Academy of Engineering / Sanford, NC
Southern Lee High School, Academy of Hospitality & Tourism / Sanford, NC
Southwest Miami Senior High School, Academy of Finance / Miami, FL
Thomas Jefferson High School, Academy of Hospitality & Tourism / Dallas, TX
Valley High School, Academy of Hospitality & Tourism / Las Vegas, NV
W.H. Adamson High School, Academy of Finance / Dallas, TX
William H. Turner Technical Arts High School, Academy of Information Technology / Miami, FL
Woodrow Wilson High School, Academy of Finance / Dallas, TX
Woodrow Wilson High School, Academy of Hospitality & Tourism / Dallas, TX

2019

MODEL ACADEMIES

Acadiana High School, Academy of Finance / Lafayette, LA
Apex High School, Academy of Information Technology / Apex, NC
Barbara Goleman Senior High School, Academy of Finance / Miami Lakes, FL
Barbara Goleman Senior High School, Academy of Hospitality & Tourism / Miami Lakes, FL
Booker T. Washington Senior High School, Academy of Finance / Miami, FL
Brooklyn Academy of Global Finance High School, Academy of Finance / Brooklyn, NY
Bryan Adams High School, Academy of Engineering / Dallas, TX
Carencro High School, Academy of Information Technology / Lafayette, Louisiana
Charlotte Engineering Early College, Academy of Engineering / Charlotte, NC
Dillard High School, Academy of Finance / Fort Lauderdale, FL
Eastern Idaho Professional-Technical High School, Academy of Finance / Idaho Falls, ID
Edgewood High School, Academy of Finance / Harford County, MD
Fort Myers High School, Academy of Finance / Fort Myers, FL
Fremont Academy of Engineering and Design, Academy of Engineering / Pomona, CA
Granite Hills High School OT-Law & Justice / Porterville, CA
H. Grady Spruce High School, Academy of Information Technology / Dallas, TX
H. Grady Spruce High School, Academy of Engineering / Dallas, TX
H. Grady Spruce High School, Academy of Finance / Dallas, TX
Hamburg High School, Academy of Finance / Hamburg, NY
Homestead Senior High School, Academy of Hospitality & Tourism / Homestead, FL
J. Christian Bollwage Finance High School / Elizabeth, NJ
Jennings Senior High School, Academy of Health Sciences / Jennings, MO
Miami Sunset Senior High School, Academy of Information & Media Technology / Miami, FL
Miami Sunset Senior High School, Academy of Engineering / Miami, FL
Miami Sunset Senior High School, Academy of Finance / Miami, FL
Monache High School, OT - Environmental Sciences Academy / Porterville, CA
Mountain Ridge High School, Academy of Entrepreneurship / Glendale, AZ

North Dallas High School, Academy of Information Technology / Dallas, TX
Northridge High School, STEM Academy / Greeley, CO
Phelps Architecture, Construction, and Engineering, Academy of Engineering / Washington, DC
Piper High School, Academy of Finance / Sunrise, FL
Robert Morgan Educational Center, Academy of Hospitality & Tourism / Miami, FL
Sonoma Valley High School, Engineering, Design, and Technology Academy / Sonoma, CA
South Broward High School, Academy of Hospitality & Tourism / Hollywood, FL
Southwest Miami Senior High School, Academy of Information Technology / Miami, FL
Strathmore High School, OT-Emerging Agriculture Technology / Strathmore, CA
Thomas Jefferson High School, Academy of Finance / Tampa, FL
W. H. Adamson High School, Academy of Health Sciences / Dallas, TX
William R. Boone High School, Academy of Finance / Orlando, FL
Westminster High School, Academy of Finance / Westminster, MD
William H. Turner Technical High School, Academy of Finance / Miami, FL
Wilson High School, Academy of Hospitality & Tourism / Washington, DC
Woodson High School, Academy of Information Technology / Washington, DC
Zebulon B. Vance High School, Academy of Engineering / Charlotte, NC

PROMISING PRACTICES

ACADEMY OF ENGINEERING



OROSI HIGH SCHOOL

Academy of Engineering & Green Technology
Orosi, CA

PROMISING PRACTICE:

Creating a K-12 Work-Based Learning Continuum

This district-wide creation of a K-12 work-based learning continuum of grade level college and career awareness activities positively impacts students on the elementary and middle school levels. Activities align to awareness, preparation, and training and are custom-made to fit the younger grades. For example, activities and events have included a K-5 college and career showcase night and a middle school college fair and career day. This forward-thinking continuum and commitment to raising awareness early on will ensure students are Future Ready, well before reaching high school!



THOMAS JEFFERSON HIGH SCHOOL

Academy of Engineering
Dallas, TX

PROMISING PRACTICE:

Professional Clothing Closet

Thomas Jefferson High School maintains a clothing closet that provides professional attire for students to wear for their work-based learning and internship experiences. The idea stemmed from NAF Finance teacher, Evelyn Schultz Watts, who began the closet during her first year and partnered with local organizations to collect donations for both male and female students. These items are routinely compiled to keep an inventory, cleaned, and displayed for NAF students and others in the high school who need attire for a professional event.

PROMISING PRACTICES

ACADEMY OF FINANCE



BARRON COLLIER HIGH SCHOOL

Academy of Finance
Naples, FL

PROMISING PRACTICE: Power of Community Partnerships

The Academy of Finance (AOF) thrives with the consistent and generous support of the community. Numerous guest speakers help students develop the essential public speaking skills and learn how to dress for success. Local businesses conduct class visits for worksite tours of their specialized facilities, and students participate in informational interviews with distinguished participants. Students also engage in mock interviews with trained Human Resource professionals and business mentors partner with the AOF to help students launch startup companies, and prepare for competitive presentations. Partnership with the dedicated school and district NAF Advisory Boards and Greater Naples Chamber of Commerce, assist students in securing paid internships.



MIAMI EDISON SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL
Academy of Finance and Entrepreneurship
Miami, FL

PROMISING PRACTICE:
Integrated Project-Based Learning

Miami Edison Senior High School, Academy of Finance and Entrepreneurship emphasizes integrated project-based learning from 9th through 12th grade cohorts to offer opportunities for deeper learning in-context and for the development of important skills tied to college and career readiness. Students explore real-world issues, such as developing innovative concepts for sustainability, including improving methods to recycle and repurpose disposed plastic products. Projects are inter-disciplinary focused, include work-based learning elements, and are showcased at various culminating events, such as the annual Financial Literacy Fair.



MIAMI JACKSON SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL
Academy of Finance
Miami, FL

PROMISING PRACTICE:
A "Financially Fit" Culture

Celebrating its 30th anniversary this year, the NAF Academy of Finance at Miami Jackson Senior High School has been preparing students to be "financially fit" for decades. The administration has built and maintained a strong partnership with the Florida International Bankers Association (FIBA) since their inception—offering jobs shadows, guest speakers, internships and financial support. Once again, this summer, high school students will participate in the coveted summer internship provided by institutions, such as The City of Miami, Future Bankers' Camp, hosted by Miami Dade College's (MDC) School of Business, the Center for Financial Training at MDC, and other independent companies. These real-world experiences shape young people to enter the world of work.



WEST SENECA CENTRAL SCHOOLS
Academy of Finance
West Seneca, NY

PROMISING PRACTICE:
Active Advisory Board

The Academy of Finance partners with leading industry and education representatives to guarantee that the curriculum and activities are both current and relevant. Students enrolled in the academy are eligible to receive a Regents Diploma, with an expanded certificate of Business and Financial studies and achieve transferable business skills and knowledge. The academy is supported by a very active Advisory Board, ensuring students are taking part in real-world experiences—including field trips, job shadow days, guest speakers in the classroom, paid internships, as well as having the opportunity to earn college credit.

PROMISING PRACTICES

ACADEMY OF
HEALTH SCIENCES



BRYAN ADAMS HIGH SCHOOL

Academy of Health Sciences
Dallas, TX

PROMISING PRACTICE:

Student Supports & Feeling Like Part of a Community

The academy pairs students with an advisor for two years, to support their academic journey and help plan for their futures. Young people are provided with both the curricular and social-emotional supports for these important developmental years. In addition to the robust opportunities offered by the academy related to work-based learning, internships, and public speaking practices to build the essential hard and soft skills, guidance from a trusted adult helps ensure that students stay engaged and are on track to graduate. In working with their advisor, students felt like part of a community and confident in preparing for their next steps, in college and career.



EVERGLADES HIGH SCHOOL
Academy of Health Sciences
Miramar, FL

PROMISING PRACTICE:
Academy Collaboration With Other Disciplines

Students from the Allied Health Pathway, Firefighter Academy, and Sports Medicine magnet all make up the NAF Health Sciences Academy at Everglades High School. Specific teachers are chosen to work with students and develop teams that integrate sports medicine into the curricula. For example, psychology can be tied to a discussion on traumatic brain injuries and concussions, as part of the health and wellness program. Additionally, the academy collaborates with the English department to review research papers, as part of the exercise science curriculum. When teachers work as a team and find common ground among their own disciplines, students reap the benefits and can confidently make real-world connections.



OROSI HIGH SCHOOL
Academy of Health Sciences
Orosi, CA

PROMISING PRACTICE:
Advisory Board-Led Customized Planning Sessions

Advisory board members are active in the planning sessions for the academy, during key times of the year, and review curriculum, projects, and the needs of the school community for the following academic year. Working with these industry leaders ensures that academy content is up to date and relevant for students, as they prepare for the jobs of the future in the health sciences field. Connections are able to be made with local hospitals and medical organizations, and plans can be put in place for the benefit of the next generation of talent—guided through the lens of experienced professionals who have direct exposure to the working world.

Working with
industry leaders
ensures that students
are prepared for the
jobs of the future.

PROMISING PRACTICES

ACADEMY OF HOSPITALITY & TOURISM



FRANK W. BALLOU SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL
Academy of Hospitality & Tourism
Washington, DC

PROMISING PRACTICE: Student Leadership

Academy of Hospitality & Tourism students spearhead school-wide events such as back-to-school nights, homecoming dances, and proms, as a way to sharpen their event planning skills. These special occasions have raised the academy's visibility within the school and have encouraged more students to participate. The academy is involved in every detail of the event from the initial planning to acting as ambassadors on the ground to ensure that guests are having an exceptional experience. Additionally, the academy has joined with other AOHT's in Washington, DC to organize college tours for students to learn about opportunities in the post-secondary space and what programs are offered.



BARRON COLLIER HIGH SCHOOL
Academy of Hospitality & Tourism
Naples, FL

PROMISING PRACTICE: The NAF Games

The Academy of Hospitality & Tourism has run a NAF Games activity for the past two years to help raise awareness of NAF in the high school. The event consisted of various games and activities that the students could compete in. Team members were encouraged to wear the color of their academy, so they could be identified in the competition. Local business and NAF advisory board members helped cover the cost for the events and students also gave donations that supported local nonprofits in their community. Last year, students raised over \$1,300 for Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School, in the aftermath of the tragedy.



CARVER HIGH SCHOOL

Academy of Hospitality & Tourism
Winston-Salem, NC

PROMISING PRACTICE:

Event Planning from Start to Finish

Academy of Hospitality & Tourism students take the lead on the planning and hosting of important school-wide events and recognition ceremonies, such as the Core Awards Banquet. Hosted at the Benton Convention Center in Winston-Salem, NC, this special occasion draws over 3,000 teachers from all across the district. Students are involved in the preparation, set-up, and facilitation of all aspects of this day and take pride in treating guests to an unforgettable experience.



MIAMI SUNSET SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL

Academy of Hospitality & Tourism
Miami, FL

PROMISING PRACTICE:

"New Classroom"

Miami Sunset Senior High School recently revamped a traditional classroom to provide Academy of Hospitality students with a learning setting that functions like a hotel lobby. Students rotate to be in the front desk area, where they take the names and information of any visitor entering or exiting the classroom at any time—ensuring that they are using their best customer service skills. There are areas to work cooperatively, similar to a business center of a hotel with computer and printers, and a common area with couches and tables is available for students to present their ideas and plans. The renovation has enhanced students' creativity and has promoted a positive learning environment, while preparing students to work in a real-world work setting.



OLYMPIC HIGH SCHOOL

Academy of Hospitality & Tourism
Charlotte, NC

PROMISING PRACTICE:

Leveraging Strategic Partnerships

With the Academy of Hospitality & Tourism joining the roster of newly distinguished academies this year, Olympic High School has become the second high school in America to have all five of its academies earn this coveted honor. The Academy of Hospitality and Tourism at Olympic High School has replicated the school's best practice in leveraging a prolific strategic partnership program, which powers over 700 business who have volunteered 28,000 hours and over \$18 million dollars over the past decade in support of helping the next generation become aware, explore, and prepare for high demand careers in a modern economy. The Academy of Hospitality & Tourism empowers the local industry sector to lead and leverage high school as an effective means for expanding the talent pool.

PROMISING PRACTICES

ACADEMY OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY



BARBARA GOLEMAN SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL

Academy of Information Technology
Miami, FL

PROMISING PRACTICE: NAFTrack Certification as a Driver of Student Success

Supporters of the Academy of Information Technology, including board members, students, teachers, and administrators, all understand the value and benefit of NAFTrack Certification. Each stakeholder agrees that this important industry-recognized credential opens doors, sets students apart, and is a driver for student success. Before this school year closed, most of the seniors only needed to graduate to complete the final step, and juniors were already at a high completion rate. The adoption of a Program of Study has also proven to be an accelerator for students in achieving NAFTrack Certification. This academy is taking all of the necessary measures to prepare the next generation for success!



EMMETT J. CONRAD HIGH SCHOOL
Academy of Information Technology
Dallas, TX

PROMISING PRACTICE:
"Lunch with a Boss"

"Lunch with a Boss" is an annual event Conrad NAF academies host every year. Supervisors of working students and other industry professionals and executives join NAF students for a special lunch. This is a valuable networking opportunity for both groups, as juniors and seniors have the opportunity to discuss their work experiences, classroom projects, and other activities with business leaders, and in turn receive valuable advice and industry insights. These experiences allow the next generation of talent to connect with those in the working world to prepare for their futures and feel ready to take the next step after high school.



OLYMPIC HIGH SCHOOL
Academy of Information Technology
Charlotte, NC

PROMISING PRACTICE:
Expanded Work-Based Learning

The NAF Academy of Information Technology at Olympic High School focuses on creating positive academic, social, and career-driven opportunities —by providing a culmination of activities and career-related pathways geared toward IT development, industry related certifications, apprenticeships, and internship experiences. The work-based learning continuum encompasses many learning experiences, including job shadowing, on-the-job training, mentoring, and other supports provided by the Olympic High School Foundation. In modeling the "Olympic Way," students have been able to capitalize on their strengths, and transition into adulthood with a plan of action that leads to success for post-secondary, as well as a targeted career pathway in the IT industry.



WEST SENECA CENTRAL SCHOOLS
Academy of Information Technology
West Seneca, NY

PROMISING PRACTICE:
Preparing Students To Be IT Leaders

The Academy of IT/Digital Media (AOIT/DM) introduces students to the broad career opportunities in today's computer and digital workforce and, in the process, equips them with the personal, analytical, technical and communication skills they need to thrive. Through their academy experience, students gain an understanding of the connections that exist between their education and the workplace. Academy teachers and industry mentors provide students with the curriculum and guidance necessary for rewarding careers. The West Seneca Academy of IT/Digital Media is supported by a very active Advisory Board, which ensures all academy students are getting real-world experiences as a vital part of the academy program.



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