

# INDUSTRY NEED

Prior to the COVID-19 crisis, The Bureau of Labor Statistics predicted a growth in the IT sector of 557K new jobs by 2026, but what we are now seeing is that workers in nearly every industry are going to need to have the fundamental technical skills to be able to keep up with the changing workforce.

As the industry evolves, there will be a greater focus on filling positions in cloud computing, the collection and storage of big data, and information security. Because of this exponential growth, there is an urgent need to address the skills gap, as not enough college graduates are filling open jobs and traditional education isn't able to keep up with this fast-paced industry. Diverse ethnic and gender representation are also sorely lacking in the industry beginning at the college level.

#### **CURRICULUM**

Information technology curriculum covers computer networking, systems, database design, digital video production, graphic design, web design, and programming. In addition, Juniper Networks offers a program of study, that will qualify students for its professional training program and to earn a Juniper certificate. Academies may use curriculum from Project Lead the Way, Inc. and select courses from Cisco. In addition, NAF approves programs of study that align with NAF's certification standards, enabling local school districts to meet the needs of their community, as well as district and state requirements.

### **NAF APPROACH**

NAF's educational design is focused on making connections between the classroom and the workplace by integrating career-focused curricula and projects into the traditional high school experience, coupled with opportunities for real-world application. Through a series of coursework, together with a progressive continuum of activities designed to build awareness, enable exploration, and finally prepare students for future studies and career paths, NAF students gain the skills and knowledge needed to make informed choices and be successful in their future careers.

#### **PARTNERSHIPS**

NAF works with both major corporations and local companies to ensure curriculum is current and relevant and to provide practical experience to students through a series of work-based learning activities. These activities enable students to connect directly with professionals in IT to learn first-hand about the industry, the skills needed to succeed, the expectations, and more. Business professionals serve as role models and mentors to students, guiding them to grow their business acumen, as well as technical knowledge. Businesses that work with NAF academies play an active and integral role in shaping the future workforce and building a talent pipeline that will one day soon be eligible to fill roles within their companies.

2020-2021



**31,121 STUDENTS** 





# STUDENT POPULATION

**65% MALE** 



35% **FEMALE** 

<1% Gender-Nonconforming or Unknown

86% of students are females and/or ethnic minorities

45% | Hispanic/Latino

26% Black/African American

20% White

6% Asian

**3%** Other/Multi-racial

<1% Pacific Islander

<1% Native American/Alaska Native

<1% Unknown

63% Eligible for free/reduced lunch

22% English Language Learners

# **ACADEMY CAREER THEMES**



of seniors graduated



college-bound graduates



37%

seniors who had an internship