



2019-2020 Annual Report

Transitioning to the Future



Dear friends,

On behalf of Racine Unified School District and the Office of Secondary Transformation, it is my pleasure to bring you this edition of the Academies of Racine Annual Report.

This year is one we'll remember forever. It began with more excitement and anticipation than ever as we prepared to celebrate the first graduating class of the Academies of Racine. Then, in March, schools were forced to close their doors and transform teaching and learning overnight. Yet, we persevered. Our Academies educators taught our students online and we finished strong.

Although the year did not end like we had hoped and many of our students missed out on the completion of some senior-year Academies experiences, we still have a lot to celebrate as you'll see in the following pages.

In July, we honored more than 800 Academies of Racine graduates. These students walked across the stage having had amazing hands-on, real-world learning experiences thanks in great part to community partners like you! These partnerships have helped us to lay a strong, results-oriented and data-driven foundation and transform teaching and learning practices to truly redefine the narrative of high school education in Racine.

We have come a long way in building strong relationships with businesses, post-secondary institutions and other community members and organizations to ensure the success of the Academies. From college and career-building experiences for our freshmen and sophomores to the collaborative opportunities in work-based learning for our juniors and seniors, we couldn't do it without you. Every step we take on this journey, we are making a difference for this great community we serve.

This year marks year five of our journey and my first serving as Chief of Schools. Daryl Burns will assume the role of Deputy Chief of Secondary Transformation. We are so excited to continue moving the work forward.

COVID-19 has affected us all and will surely present more challenges for the Academies this year. But, we have consistently demonstrated that we are more powerful, filled with more potential and can overcome any challenges when we work together.

Thank you for your service, commitment and belief in this transformation. Your involvement is undoubtedly helping to ensure our graduates are college, career and life ready. The return on this investment is a brighter future for our students, for Racine's workforce and for the entire community.

Sincerely,

Jody Bloyer
Chief of Schools
Racine Unified School District
(262) 631-7075

Academies of Racine Steering Committee Officers

Ahmad Qawi
Racine Family YMCA
Chair

Jody Bloyer
RUSD - Chief of Schools

Sarah Kapellusch
Gateway Technical College
Secretary

Dr. Christopher Neff
RUSD - Director of Academies
Parliamentarian

Introducing our new Deputy Chief of Secondary Transformation, Daryl Burns

Daryl Burns comes to RUSD from Milwaukee Public Schools with more than 20 years of experience in education. He has a passion for student growth and the "voice and choice" approach to our Academy model as students grow through the lens of college, career and life readiness.

Prior to joining the RUSD team, Burns was the Directing Principal of Vincent High School of Agricultural Sciences, developing numerous partnerships with the Agricultural business fields including equipment, transportation and food sciences. Welcome, Daryl!





Greetings Academies of Racine Stakeholders,

This is bittersweet as the 2019-2020 Academies of Racine Annual Report and this letter serves as my final contact to you as Chief of Schools for the Racine Unified School District.

As many of you are aware, I started a new position as Assistant Superintendent of the Oak Creek Franklin Joint School District on July 1. I am so thankful to past and present staff for the opportunities that have been provided to me during my 31 years with RUSD.

As I reflect on this past year, it has been one of excitement and challenges. This was the first graduating class to be wall-to-wall Academies, meaning that every student has completed all four years in the academy model. We have so much to be proud of including 215 students engaged in a Youth Apprenticeship opportunity - which is the most we have ever had since we started this work. We boasted hundreds of students earning awards, taking part in statewide competitions, exploring job sites, hearing from talented local professionals, taking part in site visits and learning more about themselves. And then, COVID-19 stopped us in our tracks and closed all schools for the remainder of the school year.

But, we didn't let the global pandemic ruin our momentum. While there were many experiential learning opportunities we were not able to complete, our staff ensured our students were still engaged in their learning. Our schools adapted quickly to deliver instruction remotely and teachers, students and parents adjusted to this "new normal." Zoom and Google Hangout meetings have become the norm. But as former Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel stated, "you never want a serious crisis to go to waste." The Academies of Racine Team and Steering Committee have risen to the challenges facing us and sees this crisis as presenting an opportunity.

As we navigate through this "opportunity," we will not only continue to focus on our AoR Master Plan but incorporate the 6 Principles and Strategies for Addressing Unfinished Learning from Addressing Unfinished Learning After COVID-19 School Closures by the Council of the Great City Schools, June 2020. In this research, they identify:

- Stick to grade-level content and instructional rigor
- Focus on the depth of instruction, not on the pace
- Prioritize content and learning
- Ensure inclusion of each and every learner
- Identify and address gaps in learning through instruction, avoiding the misuse of standardized testing
- Capitalize on commonalities, not differences

Regardless of what instructional delivery model a school district implements or what combination of in-person and virtual learning it employs in the coming months and years, adhering to these overarching principles will help ensure that all students have equal access to high-quality instruction and educational opportunity (Council of the Great City Schools, 2020).

Council of the Great Schools, 2020, goes on to state, "... educators should capitalize on the shared experience of living through a pandemic... that can serve as the basis for work across subjects in the first weeks of school... associated with this real-world learning opportunity should emphasize improving the quality of what students produce using collaborative (and perhaps digital) feedback and revision cycles."

I want to thank you for your commitment and providing support and opportunities for OUR students. Our collective impact is truly changing the narrative of what an Academies of Racine graduate looks like and the totality of their preparation for career, college and life readiness.

I appreciate the opportunity to serve our Academies of Racine community for the last several years. You will all always hold a special place in my heart and I will always be a champion of this work.

Good health and happiness always,

Daniel J. Thielen
Dan Thielen

Former Chief of Schools, Racine Unified School District

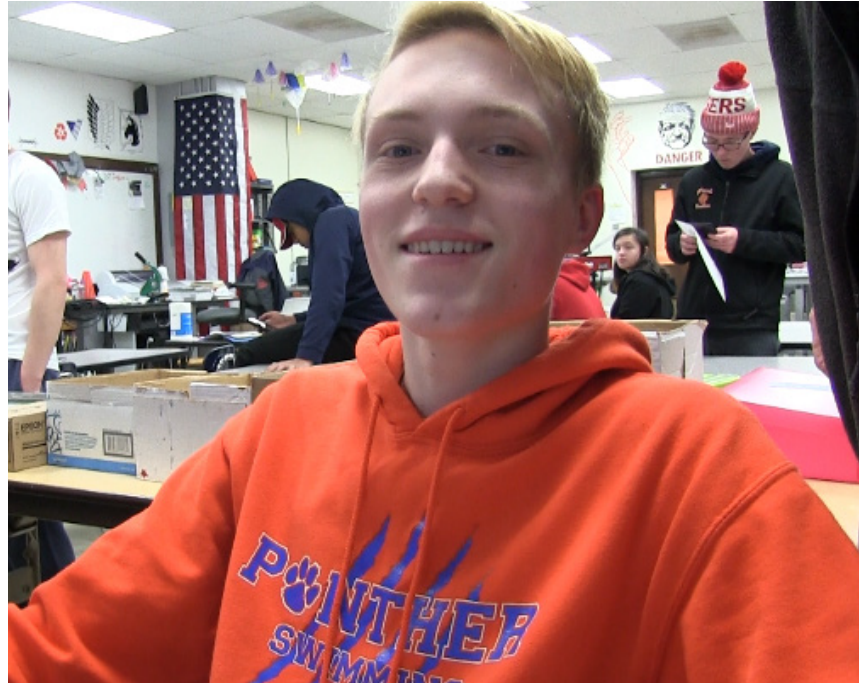
First Class Graduates

It's hard to know what you want to be when you grow up at just 14 years old. Life can be unpredictable, exciting, scary and challenging. In 2016, Drake Ludvigsen was 14. He was about to begin his high school career at Park High School. He would embark upon a high school career that no other student in RUSD had experienced... yet. Ludvigsen and every other incoming freshman at Case, Horlick and Park High Schools were set to be the first graduating class of the Academies of Racine.

"I didn't really know what to expect. It was all a bit overwhelming," Ludvigsen said as he looked back over his high school career. "High school was new, the people were new and the classes were new. All I knew at that time was that I was like a rock. And, I was hoping the Academies could polish me down to be a diamond."

Four years ago, RUSD completely transformed its high schools into the Academies of Racine. The Academies are designed to ensure students are better prepared for college and the regional workforce. In changing the curriculum, developing small learning communities and better connecting with local businesses and organizations, the Academies help students graduate with a plan. Within the Academies are specific Pathways, such as Culinary Arts, Engineering, Marketing, Automotive Technology and Construction, among other specialty areas based on high-demand careers.

Exploration begins in middle school. Students chart their unique Pathway during eighth grade, exploring possible career choices. When they enter high school, all students participate in the SEE Your Future Expo where they get the opportunity to talk with employers and learn about their occupation, what career and education choices led to their current role and how these experiences contribute to the success of the community.



"The SEE Your Future Expo was my favorite part of high school," Sierra Mares, Park High School graduate said during a Zoom call her senior year. "It was eye-opening to see so many different career options in one room and then to realize they are all available right here in my community."

During freshman year, students also participate in college visits where they get to tour a college campus and see what post-secondary opportunities are available to them.

"We did get a lot of opportunities to figure out what interested us," Ludvigsen said. "Even if you walked in not having a clue, you were able to weed out what you liked and didn't like and that helped make your choice."

Freshman year is capped off with Declaration Day, a special ceremony held at each school where a student declares what Academy and Pathway they will study for the remainder of their high school journey.

Case High School graduate Koffi Koudahenou knew right away what interested him.

“Growing up I kind of had a lot of ideas of what I wanted to be,” Koudahenou said. “But, when I heard about the Academies I started to focus on what I was good at and what skills I had and I knew I had to go with the Engineering pathway.”

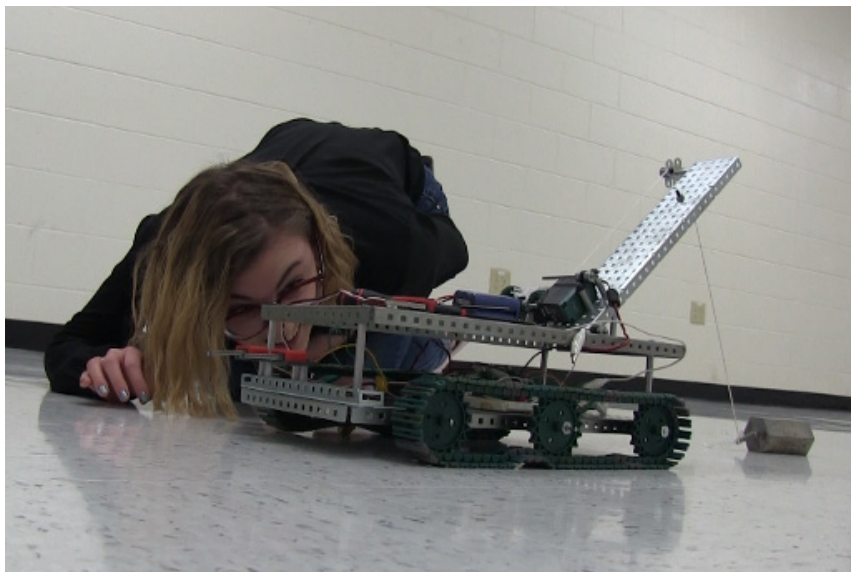
He declared his Pathway and spent the next three years taking every engineering class he could.

“The cool part about it was I got to learn a little bit about all aspects of engineering,” Koudahenou explained. “I feel like I have a more well-rounded view of engineering as a whole and am more informed heading into college.”

During sophomore and junior year, Academy students are introduced to more academically challenging classes and several hands-on experiences such as site visits to local businesses to see how they operate and workplace learning opportunities such as youth apprenticeships.

The Youth Apprenticeship Program is designed for high school students to get hands-on learning in an occupational area at a worksite along with classroom instruction. This one-or-two year elective program combines academic and technical instruction with mentored on-the-job learning.

“The Youth Apprenticeship program, along with site visits and other opportunities offered to Academy students help them to get an understanding of what life will look like when they leave these high school walls,” Park High School’s Workplace Coordinator Michael Lynch said. “You see these students learning in the classroom and then they go and apply those same skills in the workplace and vice versa.”



The Academies of Racine encourages project-based, hands-on learning. Sophia Governatori is a 2020 Horlick High School graduate.

“When I was a freshman I had no idea what I wanted to be when I grew up,” Governatori said. “But the Academies really gave me an opportunity to get hands-on interactive experience in a field I might not have thought of before.”

This July, Ludvigsen, Mares, Koudahenou and Governatori turned their tassels and walked across the graduation stage, albeit in a much different way than they ever could have imagined back in 2016. Their senior year had been cut short by the COVID-19 pandemic, forcing them to miss out on some of the more memorable moments in a student’s senior year.

“It was okay,” Mares said. “We did our school online. It was hard, but we got through it.”

But, whether they knew it or not, they were part of history. Not just because they are living through a global pandemic. But, because they are the first graduating class of the Academies of Racine. And while prom and senior skip day didn’t happen this year - these four students and their fellow classmates were able to complete a four-year experience that has redefined high school education in Racine. They can truly say they walked out of high school prepared for college, career and life.



THE ACADEMIES
OF RACINE
◀ CASE ▶

Case High School



The Academies of Racine at Case High School prepares students for college, career and life by providing hands-on experiences that link schoolwork and the workplace. Students have the opportunity to take part in small, personalized learning environments that ensure they graduate with a plan.



Academy of Health Sciences

The Academy of Health Sciences inspires positivity, investigation, compassion, creativity and knowledge. This year, students had the opportunity to participate in several hands-on experiences such as touring Ascension All-Saints Hospital and then using those skills in the classroom to design a new Emergency Department floor plan that would increase efficiency and effectiveness. In addition, students were able to tour post-secondary institutions to explore careers in the medical field and had the opportunity to work collaboratively on several cross-curricular projects.



Academy of Business & Culinary Arts


The Academy of Business and Culinary Arts prepares emerging leaders to compete and network in a global economy. This year, students had several opportunities to learn hands-on including taking part in a job shadow at Educators Credit Union, touring a local restaurant with the executive chef and earning their Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) certification in partnership with the United Way of Racine County.



Academy of Computer Science, Education & Technical Services

The Academy Computer Science, Education & Technical Services builds a foundation to engineer the future. This year, students were able to participate in several hands-on experiences including job shadows at local construction sites and the opportunity to hear from Ford Motor Company guest speaker Dale Killins. Students also participated in robotics challenges, earned certifications such as the Assistant Child Care Teacher (ACCT) certification from the Department of Public Instruction and participated in the 2020 lunar flagpole design challenge posed by the NASA HUNCH Program.

203 
Students are on track
to earn **226**
Industry Certifications*

100% 
of Academy Pathway
Sophomores had the
opportunity to attend
Coordinated Site Visits

171 
Guest Speakers

*Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, students were not able to finish their certifications during the school year. Students have until October to complete the requirements. Therefore, this number is a projection of certifications earned.

Case Eagle Scout's Project Helps Young Readers Soar

Case High School student Reese Rognsvoog is working on becoming an Eagle Scout. And through this process RUSD schools and the Veterans Outreach Center of Wisconsin are benefiting!

For his Eagle Scout project, the Case High School senior decided to spread his love of reading to others by building Little Free Libraries.

Instead of constructing these libraries from scratch, Rognsvoog decided to repurpose old newspaper dispensers. Each dispenser was sanded and given a customized paint job featuring the school's colors and logo. He also adjusted the springs in the dispensers to reduce the force of the door when it closes.

In February, Rognsvoog and his parents delivered the first Little Free Library to Knapp Elementary School. Within minutes, students were already swarming the dispenser checking out the books.

"I thought it was going to take a few days to catch on," Rognsvoog said as he watched the students smile at his project. "It was really cool to see them already taking advantage of it and getting excited about reading."

After the delivery to Knapp, deliveries were also made to Julian Thomas Elementary and The R.E.A.L. School.

Rognsvoog partnered with RUSD, the Racine Public Library and the Journal Times to make his dream a reality. He hopes other potential Eagle Scouts continue his project until every RUSD school has a Little Library in their main office.




Case Freshman Academy Highlights

All students in the Case Freshman Academy had the opportunity to tour pathway courses within each career Academy in order to choose their best fit. These interactive sessions gave students hands-on insights into the unique, real world opportunities to develop 21st century skills in the Academies of Racine-Case.

In November, freshmen students attend the See Your Future Career Expo. This experience allows freshmen to explore local career opportunities available to them after high school. The experience provides the students a chance to learn directly from employers and connect the real world to the academic world.

In December, all freshmen engaged in team building and positive leadership activities through the Youth Frontiers program. This day-long event helped students reflect on the importance of respect, inclusivity, and positive school culture.

 **104**
Youth
Apprenticeships
and Co-ops

318 
students earned
1,033 College
Credits
through Dual Credit classes

20 I.B. Full
Diploma
Candidates 
and
6 I.B. Career-related
Diploma Graduates
from the Biomedical Sciences,
Business, and Engineering
Pathways



THE ACADEMIES
OF RACINE
◀ HORLICK ▶

Horlick High School



The Academies of Racine at Horlick High School prepares students for college, career and life by providing hands-on experiences that link schoolwork and the workplace. Students have the opportunity to take part in small, personalized learning environments that ensure they graduate with a plan.



Academy of Health Sciences & Aviation

The Academy of Health Sciences and Aviation boasts a 90 percent graduation rate for the Class of 2020!

This year, 21 students earned scholarships totaling almost \$30,000. Students were able to complete their CNA certification and more than a dozen were certified in Wisconsin Blindness Vision Screening.



Academy of Business & Culinary Arts

This year, students in the Academy of Business and Culinary Arts created a senior-focused 50-65th percentile credit advisory named H.E.A.L. (Highly Effective Accountability Learning). Students in this advisory received one-on-one tutoring and coaching from two highly involved staff. In addition, culinary pathway students had the opportunity to tour a professional kitchen at HALO and students received a cooking tutorial from an experienced chef.



Academy of Education & Technical Services

Students in the Academy of Education and Technical Services took part in several hands-on opportunities including five academy signature events including academy assemblies that honored leadership in different academy character traits. In addition, all level 3 Construction pathway students prepared a resume to pursue job opportunities upon graduation.

155



Students are on track to earn

182

Industry Certifications*

100%



of Academy Pathway Sophomores had the opportunity to attend Coordinated Site Visits

131



Guest Speakers

*Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, students were not able to finish their certifications during the school year. Students have until October to complete the requirements. Therefore, this number is a projection of certifications earned.



Building a Successful Future

Luis Pineda just wanted a good grade.

“When I first started I didn’t know anything. I took the class because I thought I would get an easy A,” Pineda said. “But now, it’s turned into a class that has prepared me for life after high school.”

Pineda is enrolled in Horlick High School’s Level 3 Construction Pathway course in the Academy of Education and Technical Services.

Earlier this year, Horlick partnered with Build to Learn, an organization that brings in industry professionals to work with students to teach them real-life skills. So far this year, students like Pineda had the opportunity to work with companies like Mortensen Construction and Siemens learning everything from construction and carpentry to smart technology and plumbing.

“The skills I have learned in this class have far surpassed my expectations,” Horlick senior Sergio Beltran added. “I have learned everything from how to read a tape measure to how to properly build a sturdy foundation.”

Build to Learn partners with local employers to help prepare students for the future, the main mission of the Academies of Racine. The Academies offer students small learning communities that provide real-world experiences with local businesses and professionals, linking schoolwork and the workplace.

This year marks the first graduating class of the Academies of Racine. This summer, Pineda walked across the stage to accept his diploma and began the next chapter of his life. He’s ready.

“I’m off to Gateway Technical College in the fall,” Pineda said proudly. “And I feel like I am a step ahead.”




Horlick Freshman Academy Highlights


The Freshman Academy prepares freshmen for their high school journey. One of the courses freshmen experience in the Freshman Academy is Freshman Seminar. This course allows students to explore careers and other areas of interest while learning the soft skills needed to be successful in the workforce.

In November, freshmen students attend the See Your Future Career Expo. This experience allows freshmen to explore local career opportunities available to them after high school. The experience provides the students a chance to learn directly from employers and connect the real world to the academic world.

Freshman students also have the opportunity to attend college visits at Gateway Technical College in Racine and Kenosha and the University of Wisconsin-Parkside.

 **42**
Youth
Apprenticeships
and Co-ops

259 
students earned
756 College
Credits
through Dual Credit classes

20 
AP Scholars
including 1
National AP Scholar



**THE ACADEMIES
OF RACINE**
◀ **PARK** ▶

Park High School



The Academies of Racine at Park High School prepares students for college, career and life by providing hands-on experiences that link schoolwork and the workplace. Students have the opportunity to take part in small, personalized learning environments that ensure they graduate with a plan.



Academy of Health Sciences & Education

Students in the Academy of Health Sciences and Education got real hands-on experience this past school year. From working in local hospitals, to setting up blood drives to help put a dent in the local blood shortage, these students have made an impact in their community. In addition, education pathway students were able to serve in RUSD classrooms before the closure and assisted teachers with lesson plans and classroom management.



Academy of Leadership, Automotive & Technical Services

The Academy of Leadership, Automotive & Technical Service has a mission to build leaders and have put an emphasis on building our culture and developing our students' personal skill sets.

This year, construction pathway students had the opportunity to attend the Carpenters Training Institute in Pewaukee where they learned about careers and the necessary training for the occupations of carpentry, cabinet making, millwrighting, floor covering, interior systems and pile driving.



Academy of Business & Culinary Arts

Students in the Academy of Business and Culinary Arts have the opportunity to explore many careers of interest from learning the inner working of a local company to experiencing life in a professional kitchen.

This year, culinary pathway students competed in a state-wide cooking competition. In an effort to prepare, students put together professional recipes at school and allowed peers to give feedback on taste, texture and visual appeal. On the business side of things, academy students also got the opportunity to partner with local businesses to develop a sustainability plan that companies can use to create a more sustainable business network.

209 

Students are on track to earn

289

Industry Certifications*

100% 

of Academy Pathway Sophomores had the opportunity to attend Coordinated Site Visits

155 

Guest Speakers

*Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, students were not able to finish their certifications during the school year. Students have until October to complete the requirements. Therefore, this number is a projection of certifications earned.

These are our HEROES!

Not all heroes wear capes. There are some heroes at Park High School who wear scrubs and personal protective equipment.

This year, four students from the Health Services Pathway are in the Health Youth Apprenticeship Program working at Ascension Hospital as Certified Nursing Assistants (CNAs). These students took on additional hours during the COVID-19 pandemic to relieve exhausted nurses working with COVID-19 patients.

These students have put their fears aside to help make a difference in their community. Every day, they make the decision to go in to work and care for patients. Their experience has been life-changing and now they are even more excited about going to college and becoming professional health-care workers.



Jaylen Love



Juanita Garcia-Juarez



Candace Saldana



Juanita Arroyo




Park Freshman Academy Highlights

The Freshman Academy prepares freshmen for their high school journey. One of the courses freshmen experience in the Freshman Academy is Freshman Seminar. This course allows students to explore careers and other areas of interest while learning the soft skills needed to be successful in the workforce.

In November, freshmen students attend the See Your Future Career Expo. This experience allows freshmen to explore local career opportunities available to them after high school. The experience provides the students a chance to learn directly from employers and connect the real world to the academic world.

Freshman students also have the opportunity to attend college visits at Gateway Technical College in Racine and Kenosha and the University of Wisconsin-Parkside.


72
Youth
Apprenticeships
and Co-ops

153 
students earned
397 College
Credits
through Dual Credit classes

14 
AP Scholars

Business Partner Highlights

The Academies of Racine provide our students with real-world, hands on learning experiences that prepare them for life after high school. We know we can't do it alone. To date, RUSD has more than 200 local business partners and every year that number continues to grow. The Academies of Racine partner with local businesses to provide opportunities such as youth apprenticeships, job shadows, guest speakers and more.

This year, we are highlighting some of our business partners who strive to provide our students with the best possible learning experiences in and out of the classroom.



Gateway Technical College

Gateway Technical College partnered with the Academies of Racine to ensure our students have access and information to a post-secondary institution right in Racine County. From hosting the SEE Your Future Expo, to freshman college visits so all students can see a college campus first-hand, to providing dual and transcribed credit opportunities, Gateway helps RUSD prepare students for college or career.

"We are passionate about talent development and want to make sure that every child has access to higher learning, no matter what that may look like," Sarah Kapellusch, Gateway's Business Partnership & Development Manager said.

During the 2019-2020 school year, the dual credit partnership between Gateway and RUSD saved students and their parents more than \$612,000 in tuition costs.



Goodwill Industries

Goodwill Industries, a national non-profit with offices in Racine County, has been extremely involved with the Academies of Racine. Ron Tatum, director of supply chain at Goodwill supports the creation of learning experiences in and out of the classroom. Tatum and the Goodwill staff provide our students with real-world experiences and authentic relationships that prepare them for life after high school.

"I love pouring back into our community and mentoring our youth," Tatum said. "I wish I had these experiences when I was in high school. Programs like the Academies of Racine make our community better."

Tatum has participated in coordinated site visits for students and volunteered to be a guest speaker in many RUSD high school classrooms.

"A community is characterized by people connected by social ties and common goals. As a business partner, we have a vested interest in our schools' effectiveness and having relationships with our students now will in turn result in the community's success in the future."



Modine Manufacturing

Many students might not know what manufacturing really is. But, after Marty Weishoff from Modine Manufacturing leaves their classroom, the profession has a whole new meaning. Modine Manufacturing has partnered with the Academies of Racine since their beginning, offering high school students Youth Apprenticeship opportunities and providing them real-world experiences.

Modine was also one of the first companies to provide teacher externships. Externships provide educators the opportunity to learn more about area businesses and get a better idea of how they can teach to the real-world in their classrooms.

"Teachers can teach right angles or triangle processes. But, as they walk through a construction site and see right angles or triangle processes being used first-hand they can then take that knowledge and apply it to their teaching. That in turn gives students a better experience and makes learning more relevant."



Ascension All Saints Hospital

Ascension All Saints Hospital is inspiring young minds and offering students the chance to explore multiple opportunities in the medical field first-hand. Partnering with RUSD, Ascension allows our students to experience and interact with

professionals building a stronger future for our community.

Kimberly Leslie plays an active role helping bridge the gap between the classroom and the workplace taking part in coordinated site visits, serving as a guest speaker in our high school classrooms and allowing our students to participate in community events like the Medical Mission.

“The greatest moment I’ve had while working with the Academies would be the 2019 Medical Mission at Home. Students worked alongside healthcare professionals while helping serve our community. Strong students lead to a strong future,” Leslie said.



University of Wisconsin-Parkside

The University of Wisconsin-Parkside has been on the Academies of Racine journey since the beginning. Serving on the Academies Steering committee, hosting college

visits for 9th graders and participating each fall in the SEE Your Future Expo, UW-Parkside have provided our students with a look at life after high school. Recently, the Parkside Access to College Credits program agreed to provide an opportunity for students in the Park High School Junior ROTC pathway to earn college credits and further their education.

“We believe that education transforms lives, expands possibilities and opens new doors,” DeAnn Possehl, Associate Vice Chancellor for Enrollment Management at University of Wisconsin-Parkside said. “We love that RUSD is challenging the status quo and working to improve outcomes. We see the interconnectedness of our work as we both strive to develop the talent needed for the future.”



Want to get involved? Contact us today!

*Job Site Tours • Guest Speakers • Job Shadowing • Pathway Mentors
Internships and Youth Apprenticeships*

If you would like to find out how your organization can get involved with the Academies of Racine, please contact one of our High School Academy Coaches.

Kari Morey
Case High School Academy Coach
kari.morey@rusd.org
(262) 664-8762

Jennifer Sus
Horlick High School Academy Coach
jennifer.sus@rusd.org
(262) 619-4325

Paul Hennessey
Park High School Academy Coach
paul.hennessey@rusd.org
(262) 619-4484

One Community, Working Together



Gateway Technical College is proud to be the Convening Organization for the Academies of Racine and the first post-secondary institution in the Ford Next Generation Learning network to serve in this role. Serving in this role leverages the community's resource investment for both RUSD and Gateway. Gateway's close connection to local businesses benefits the Academies by expanding their pool of workplace sites willing to provide job-shadowing, internships, co-ops and other work-based educational opportunities. Recruiting

tomorrow's workforce talent starts in the Academies and Gateway will help more employers become involved by partnering for a better future. Additionally, with more than 70 career pathways that align with jobs and careers within our community, Gateway is in the perfect position to support the Academies with articulated college credit and related career planning. High school students earn Gateway college credit for classes taken through their chosen Academy. Complementing this is a school supervised work-based learning experience. By preparing students through both academic and related work-based learning they are building the foundational knowledge and skills necessary for career success.

The dual credit partnership between Gateway and RUSD saves both time and money for students as they accelerate their educational career. Last year, students and their parents saved more than \$612,000 in tuition costs. This school year, roughly 660 students earned more than 2,000 free Gateway credits saving them about \$340,000 in tuition costs. *these numbers were impacted due to the COVID pandemic and 3rd quarter participation did decrease.

The Academy alignment shortens the time it takes for students to earn their college degree, rescues the cost of college and provides real-world experience with local employers addressing the talent skills gap impacting our regional workforce. Our RUSD academy partnership is transforming the way we are building a seamless educational experience for students at all levels", stated Bryan Albrecht, President & CEO of Gateway Technical College. "From Kids Labs in the elementary grades to earning college credit while in high schools, students at all levels are benefiting from the Ford NGL Academy programming."

To learn more about our convening organization, contact Sarah Kapellusch at (262) 977-7977 or kapelluschs@gtc.edu.



Higher Expectations for Racine County is continuing to serve in their role as the Academies of Racine Community Impact Partner. They are, among other things, working closely with the Academies in supporting both Racine Unified Schools and Labor Market data trends, advocating for the Academies model at local, state, and national levels, leveraging partnerships to address community-based issues, creating post-secondary alignment opportunities and providing assistance with the Work Force Learning Fair

and a host of information sessions for a variety of stakeholders.

Higher Expectations strives to build rich connections within our community. We look forward to the continued collaborative gains that this partnership will have for our young people and the Academies of Racine!

To learn more about Higher Expectations for Racine County, contact Career Pathways Manager, Kristin Jenders at kristin.jenders@career2cradle.org.



As the greater Racine area chamber of commerce, Racine Area Manufacturers and Commerce (RAMAC), is Racine's Business Champion serving as a voice representing the common interests of every organization in Racine - small and large, industrial and retail, for profit and nonprofit. In support of its broad and diverse membership base, RAMAC offers a variety of pro-business and pro-community programs and initiatives. These programs aim to improve the business climate and vitality of the greater Racine area. One such initiative and strong partnership is with RUSD and the Academies of Racine.

Since the inception of the Academies of Racine, RAMAC has worked closely with RUSD to help align student learning pathways to high-demand careers. To make the link with businesses, RAMAC has facilitated opportunities for local Racine companies to take tours within the high schools to see firsthand what the Academies are accomplishing and how they are transforming how students learn. This has allowed the business community to measure the progress of the Academies and understand the opportunities they have to invest back into the schools whether it be financially, with equipment or with their time and talent.

Other ways RAMAC collaborates with RUSD is as the fiscal agent for the Youth Apprenticeship Program. RAMAC works closely with RUSD and the business community to create workplace learning opportunities. Workplace learning experiences provided to students are very valuable and enhance their chances for a greater outcome at graduation. Whether a student chooses to enter the workforce directly out of high school, go to a two year technical college or choose a four-year university their experiences in the Academies prepare them for the next chapter in their lives. RAMAC actively participates in the Academies of Racine Steering Committee which primarily advocates for these transformational opportunities for students. The committee makes decisions, advises and provides strategic oversight to mobilize the business community behind the Academies and help cultivate deep community-wide ownership.


As Racine's Business Champion, RAMAC is committed to serving the business community and continuing their partnership with RUSD to help students create a career pathway through the Academies of Racine. This partnership is imperative for the future growth and success of our local businesses and for the greater Racine community as a whole.


Snapshot of Success


233 
Employer and
Civic Partners

116 New
Employer and
Civic Partners

472 Community
Volunteers
 who
donated a
total of **2,159** hours

Freshman
Average GPA
2.34 

Freshman
with 7 or 
More Credits
66.47%

730 students
earned a total of 
2,186 College Credits
for a savings based on enrollment of
\$367,372

Academies of Racine Timeline

2014-2015

- Launch of freshman cohorts
- Study visit to Nashville
- Ford Next Generation Learning (NGL) evaluation of academy potential

2015-2016

- Accepted as a Ford NGL Community member
- Employer roundtables with high school teachers
- High school staff, PTSA & community presentations and listening sessions
- Professional development for administrators and teachers
- The inaugural SEE Your Future Expo
- RUSD math & English teacher summit at Gateway Technical College

2016-2017

- The second SEE Your Future Expo
- Career Pathway Impact Team meetings
- Project Based Learning professional development for department chairs and team leads
- Freshman college visits
- Academies of Racine summer retreat

2017-2018

- Pathway Specific CSV (coordinated site visits) to Level 1 Pathway students
- First annual Educators Credit Union Reality Check day for financial literacy for all juniors
- Over 50% of all Academy teachers trained in Project-Based Learning
- Launch of the Academy Showcase at each AoR high school
- Office of Secondary Transformation invited to present at the Ford NGL Conference and NCAC National Conference

2018-2019

- Master Plan 2.0 development
- Pathway specific Job Shadows for level 2 pathway students
- Launch of the Career Pathway Academy Advisory Councils
- 100% of academy teachers trained in Project-based Learning

2019-2020

- Full implementation of the Academies of Racine
- Congratulations, class of 2020!



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My Future.**