



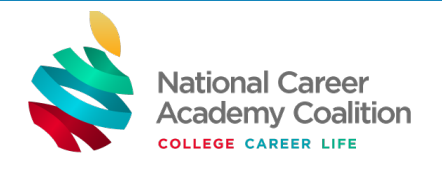
2021-2022 Annual Report



Dear Academies of Racine community,

This year the Academies of Racine accomplished something we’ve been striving to achieve since the inception of the Academies six years ago. Six of our Academies are officially National Career Academy Coalition (NCAC) Certified! This affirms that the collective support of educators, businesses and community partners is successfully preparing our students to be college, career and life ready.

The following six Academies are now nationally certified by the NCAC:



- AoR-Case - ‘Business & Culinary Arts’ and ‘Health Sciences’
- AoR-Horlick - ‘Freshman Academy’ and ‘Education & Technical Services’
- AoR-Park - ‘Health Sciences & Education’ and ‘Leadership, Automotive & Technical Services’

We hope the entire community will join us in celebrating this achievement! We could not have done it without you. The transformation happening in our high schools requires the investment of our community, our partners and our families.

Our high schools are better places of learning because of those investments. They have given our students the opportunity to grow as young adults through experiences that prepare them for life after high school. Here’s how:

- Our community partners support students through exceptional Experiential Learning Opportunities that showcase local careers and skills that are vital to this community’s success.
- We have partners who support RUSD administration and staff in developing new curriculum, professional learning opportunities, teacher externships and other supports.
- RUSD puts students first to give them the skills and knowledge to graduate career and college ready while having local connections in the community.
- The Academy Model in each high school is structured to support smaller student communities so that ALL students are successful.

You don’t have to take our word for it though. In this report our students speak of the opportunities the Academies are affording them, and we look forward to creating even more exceptional experiences for them in the years to come.

In partnership,



Daryl D. Burns Sr.
Deputy Chief of High Schools



Alexander DeBaker
Executive Director of Academies & Transformation

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The Academy Experience



Grade 9: The Freshman Academy

- The Freshman Seminar course allows students to explore careers and other areas of interest while learning professional skills that are needed to be successful in the workforce.
- The See Your Future Expo gives students a chance to connect with local employers and businesses to explore career opportunities available to them after high school.
- Students tour 2- and 4-year college campuses and learn more about postsecondary opportunities in our community.
- Freshmen select an academy and pathway during a ceremony on Declaration Day.

Grade 10: Expanding Exposure

- Students are encouraged to join student organizations relevant to their pathways.
- Sophomores visit local businesses for realistic views of the world of work.



Grades 11 & 12: All About Opportunities

- Juniors further explore workplaces through job shadowing.
- Students can save money on tuition and get a jump start on a college education by earning college credit in high school.
- Students can earn industry certifications and credentials by taking classes and getting workplace experiences.
- The Youth Apprentice Program offers students mentored, on-the-job training.
- Annual Opportunity Fairs hosted at each high school.



Coming soon!

- The Academies of Racine are launching Fire/EMS and Criminal Justice pocket pathways this fall. In partnership with Gateway Technical College, students will take courses taught by Racine and Mount Pleasant police and firefighters to earn dual credit.
- Case High School is adding a new IB Leadership Pathway to its Academy offerings to prepare students to excel in higher education and community leadership.
- The Middle School Academies will launch this fall to help students discover purpose and meaning in middle school learning. Students will learn what it means to be a good citizen, explore college and career opportunities and take a full year of Career & Technical Education (CTE) coursework to prepare them for a successful transition to high school.



Learning by Doing

RUSD students at the Academies of Racine got a taste of running a professional kitchen during the first annual Grub Crawl. The series of walking field trips allowed culinary pathway students to experience everything that goes into running a successful restaurant, from menu creation to kitchen management.

Construction pathway students from the Academies of Racine will have a sense of pride when they drive by some of the newest Habitat for Humanity homes in the city. That's because they built all the interior walls for them!

RUSD is working to grow its own educators! The District hired educational assistants and student-teacher interns from the education pathways at the Academies of Case, Horlick and Park.

Smile! Health science students had a chance to do job shadows at iDental and learn all about the different careers in the dental field and the education they require.

Ever wish you were taught money management in school? Educators Credit Union is doing its part to get Academies of Racine students ready for the real world through Reality Check Day. The event has students pick a career, gives them a salary and then has them go through "life" to get an idea of how expensive everything from childcare to a car breakdown can be.



Points of Pride

Students earned a total of
348 College Credits for a savings based on enrollment of
\$496,840

802 Industry Certifications Earned

186 Youth Apprentices
working at
123 Employers

RAMAC
RACINE'S BUSINESS CHAMPION



Seniors earned more than
\$7,200,000
in Scholarships



14 International Baccalaureate
Full Diplomas
and
4 International Baccalaureate
Career-Related Diplomas

National Competitors

RUSD had students compete at the national level for HOSA Future Health Professionals, SkillsUSA, DECA and Powerlifting!



Project-Based Learning

Building Smiles



Designs. 3D models. An actual build. These are the types of project-based learning experiences students at the Academies of Racine receive and this particular hands-on learning challenge was an entire year of fun!

The senior engineering students in Kate Buchholz's Project Lead the Way Engineering Design and Development class spent the entire 2021-22 school year designing and building a new playground for the students at Goodland Montessori School. The school's principal, Lisa Johnson, had been looking for a cost-effective way to establish a new play space where old, unsafe equipment had been removed and the students at Case high school were up for the challenge.

They toured the playground site, surveyed Goodland students about the types of play equipment they enjoy and researched playgrounds made from recycled materials.

"You can see the process and how the process actually matters," said Matilde Llacer Lopez, a 2022 graduate of Case High School. "It's not just doing the paperwork. You need to see how you're going to do things and you have to be careful with safety. You see why all the steps are important."

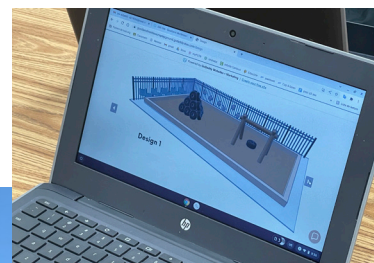
From there, the students developed digital designs and sent them to members of RUSD's Buildings and Grounds team for feedback and adjustments.

"Once their designs were ready, they printed 3D

models of three playground choices to display at Goodland. Students and staff voted for their favorite playground," said Kari Morey, Case High School academy coach and Goodland PTA member. "The winning playground was chosen based on student input as well as which design best met the challenge of using mostly recycled materials."

The students then acquired their materials, made some final design adjustments based on the tire donations they received and got building. The Goodland Montessori PTA helped fund the project through a stipend from the National PTA and other fundraising efforts, and the District's building and grounds team pitched in a bit as well.

"I may not build another playground but I am going to use all the skills and all the processes are the same for everything, so that's really cool and I appreciate that," Llacer Lopez said. "I really really hope the kids enjoy it."



Exploring the Medical Industry



Manager at Ascension All Saints. "This is a great opportunity for students to develop their skills as a caregiver."

"In the classroom we are learning a lot about the human body and how it works, so to perform patient care in the 'real world' is quite fascinating," Stollenwerk said. "My job includes taking vitals, performing glucose checks and helping patients with their everyday tasks while admitted in the hospital."

Jillian Stollenwerk splits her time these days between Case High School and Ascension All Saints Hospital. That's because she's a Youth Apprentice CNA, getting real-world experience that is directly linked to what she's learning in the classroom. Stollenwerk is entering her senior year at the Academies of Racine - Case and is in the biomedical sciences pathway.

"Every year we hire high school students who have their CNA license and are interested in a career in healthcare," said Megan Brieske, BSN RN and Clinical

In addition, Stollenwerk says she's learning a great deal about the importance of teamwork in the workplace, earning wages and high school credit for her work, and she could be setting herself up for a job right out of high school.

"We have hired several youth apprentices over the years who continue their employment at Ascension after high school while working as a CNA," said Brieske. "Many of them continue on to nursing school and are now nurses in the organization."

The Educational Experience

- The Freshman English team won a \$3,000 grant to purchase new, diverse and engaging books.
- Culinary Arts pathway students created weekly take-and-bake meals for school staff.
- Thanks to a donation from some Case alumnae, the Biomedical Sciences pathway was able to purchase equipment so students could simulate laparoscopic surgery.
- Case hosted its first Cyber Security Event with the Wisconsin Cyber Threat Response Alliance. Students got hands-on experience in how hacking works and how to combat it.

A Sweet Project



Building a Career in Carpentry

Before Jamarion Cooks ever crossed the stage at graduation, he knew his future would be bright. He had already secured a full-time, well-paying job with CG Schmidt.

“Really since I was a kid I just liked being outside, cutting grass or building things,” said Cooks. “Building anything and seeing the finished work is really satisfying.”

Imagine getting the opportunity to work for an internationally-renowned company that just built its first North American facility in your backyard. This was the reality for some Horlick High School seniors who were offered a sweet opportunity from Haribo this year.



“The Haribo gummy bear design challenge was an almost year-long project that we’ve had in school where we were given an opportunity to make a gummy mold that represents Racine and Wisconsin as a whole [and] Horlick as well,” said Daniel Venegas, a 2022 graduate of Horlick High School. He described the experience as surreal.

“We’re actually talking to an international company that has billions of dollars in assets and stocks and all that and we have to present a prototype to them.”

The project brought together students from several different Academy pathways, including engineering, business and marketing. Students brainstormed designs, surveyed the community for feedback on

designs and then created the actual gummy molds. The students conducted research on flavors, pricing, packaging and more. In the end, what they presented to Haribo was the Racine Mix.

“We decided that we can’t just solely pick one single design to represent Horlick, Racine and Wisconsin as a whole,” Venegas said. “We wanted to show the company that Wisconsinites are much more than just a single object.”

In all there were six designs; a lighthouse to represent the Windpoint Lighthouse, a tractor because Racine is home to Case IH, the number two tractor manufacturer in the country, an anchor to represent Lake Michigan, a Horlick “H”, a Golden Rondelle for Racine’s historic theater build for the 1964-65 World Fair and a traffic barrel. That last one was meant to be funny.

“We wanted to joke around with Haribo since everyone knows Racine is known for its constant construction,” Venegas said. “The orange gummy had a sour taste to it.”

Will we ever see any of their designs inside a Haribo bag on store shelves? Only time will tell. One thing is for sure though, the students involved in the project found the entire experience invaluable.



Cooks learned of CG Schmidt when his construction class visited the Horlick Lofts for a site tour. While there he learned they would be hiring youth apprentices soon and Cooks knew he had to apply. He did and became the company’s first youth apprentice.

“I’m glad Cooks is on site with us. He’s displaying good work ethics and he’s just fitting in really well,” said Steve Carmody, Senior Superintendent at CG Schmidt. “We’re going to continue to support him and help him be successful.”

Now that Cooks has gone from a pre-apprentice in the youth apprenticeship program to a carpentry apprentice, the company will fund the schooling he needs to continue to improve his skills.

“It’s a great place to work,” Cooks said. “I’m loving it.”

“We benefit from joining with the school district and helping younger people become tradesmen in the industry,” Carmody said. “Young people are looking for a good future and we can offer that.”

The Educational Experience

- Jacob Thillemann became Horlick’s first aviation pathway student to earn a Drone Pilot License.
- This year culinary arts pathway students acquired two hydroponic grow stations capable of producing 28 pounds of leafy green vegetables in 28 days.
- Seven education pathway students became certified Assistant Childcare Teachers.
- Educators Credit Union opened a branch inside Horlick, the third student branch in RUSD.

A Lesson in Genetics

Oh baby! To wrap up a biology unit on genetics, freshmen at the Academies of Racine - Park made Rebop (imaginary animal) babies! The project helped the students explore the relationship between genes and inherited traits.

The process of creating these imaginary creatures began with a coin flip to simulate how two parents pass different characteristics to their offspring. Once the students decoded their Rebop's genotypes, they made those physical characteristics come to life in Tinkercad. From there, a digital electronics class at Park 3D printed each team's Rebop baby to bring it to life.

By the end of the unit students had learned about genetics, heredity, dominant and recessive alleles, blood types, reproduction and the diversity of life!



Real-world Robotics in Racine

You don't have to go to Japan to work with robots. Or even California. Racine's robotics scene is rather robust. Just ask Sam Sexton, a 2022 graduate of the Academies of Racine at Park High School.

Sexton spent his senior year working as a youth apprentice, putting what he was learning in the school's engineering pathway courses to use at Andis Co.

"The robots on the job and at school are exactly the same so being able to learn about them in class was a big advantage because I was familiar with them," said Sexton.

He was one of three students to accept youth apprenticeship positions at Andis in the spring of 2022.

"In a market where it can be difficult to find good employees, we were excited by the opportunity to work with high school students who had a strong interest in manufacturing and help foster that interest," said Jane Eickhoff, Senior Human Resources Representative for Andis Co.

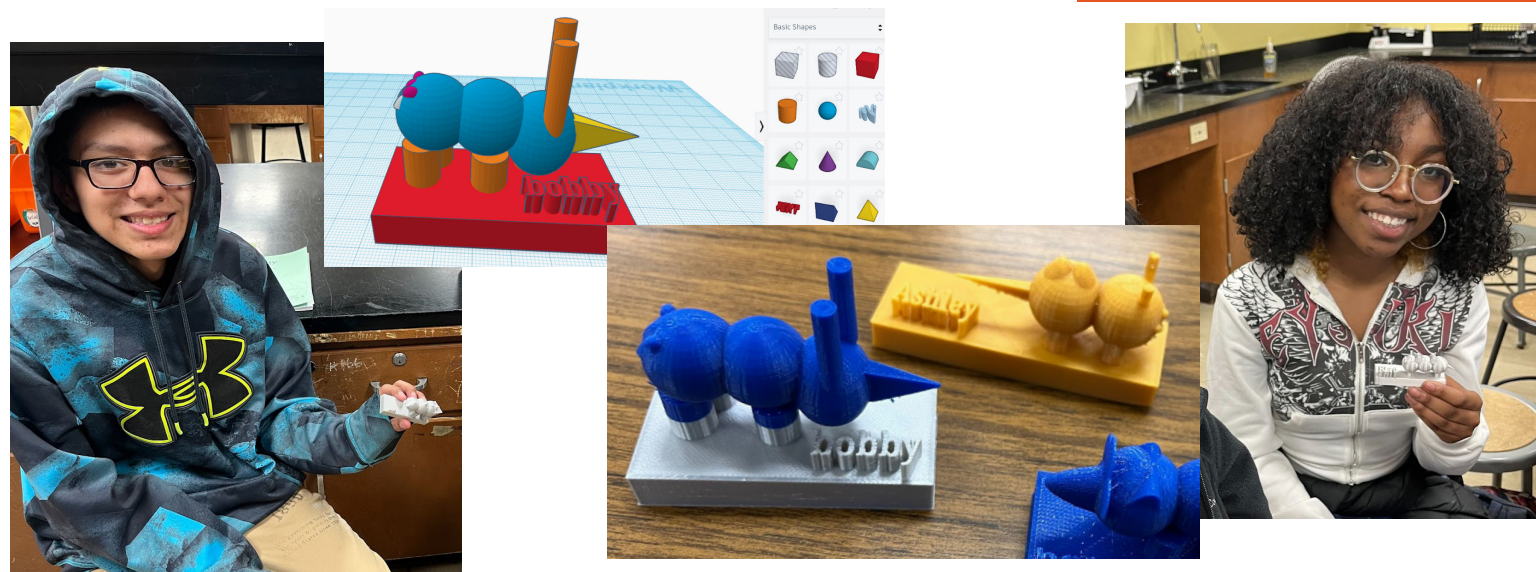
"Although initially we created a modified job description from our typical Machine Operator job, we were pleasantly surprised to find students who function very similarly to our regular staff as well as have an interest and aptitude in machining."

In addition to learning how to operate milling machines and robots, the youth apprentices also gain experience in things like teamwork, organization and goal setting which are important in any job environment.

But Andis Co. will be reaping the benefits of its investment into these youth apprentices. Two of the three hired in the Spring of 2022 accepted full-time positions after graduation, including Sexton.

"I have always loved problem solving and working with my hands," he said.

"Andis was the perfect opportunity for me because I was interested in manufacturing and robotics. Andis would allow me to get the experience and be able to make a career out of it."



The Educational Experience

- This year 82% of Park students were enrolled in at least one honors course.
- Park's HOSA Club for future health professionals teamed up with Versiti Blood Center to host two blood drives, resulting in the collection of 135 pints of blood.
- More than 50 student leaders attended a leadership conference hosted by Educators Credit Union and took part in workshops focused on time and money management, stress management and common attributes of successful leaders.
- Wisconsin State Superintendent of Public Instruction Dr. Jill Underly visited Park to tour the school's career academies, which are home to some of the state's best career and technical education programming.

Join the Charge

The Academies of Racine integrate high school coursework and graduation requirements with high-demand career fields, giving students the opportunity to see how the information they are learning is applicable in the real-world. This cannot solely be done in a classroom. It requires a community approach to education and RUSD is fortunate that Racine Area Manufacturers and Commerce (RAMAC), regional post-secondary institutions and local employers are invested. The District has partnered with more than 150 businesses, organizations and community groups to offer students everything from guest speakers to youth apprenticeships.



Get Involved!

Ready to join the charge and help change Racine's community for the better?

Call one of our academy coaches today to discuss the opportunities that await.



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MIAD
WMC WI Manufacturers & Commerce
Racine Family YMCA
Mahogany Gallery
Junior Achievement
OPCMIA
U.S. Marine Corps
Heartland Promedica
Educated Choices Program
Building Waters
Modine Manufacturing
Batten Intl. Airport
Versiti Blood Center of WI
S.C. Johnson
Professional Interpreting Enterprise
U.S. Army
U.S. Navy
CG Schmidt
Kenosha Co. Medical Examiner
Kestrel Hawk Landfill
WWBIC
Millwrights and Pile Drivers Local 2337
WI Dept. of Revenue
North Central States Regional Council of Carpenters
Cousins Subs
Higher Expectations
Vision Forward
KMI Construction
Kenosha Airport
Bryant and Stratton College
The Juice Plus Company
Operative Plasterers' and Cement Masons' Int. Assoc.
WI Operating Engineers Local 139
Plumbers & Steamfitters Local 118
Racine Dental Group
Joey's Yardarm
Holosoft
Roberta Cafe
Mount Pleasant Police Dept.
City of Racine
WRTP Big Step
National Assoc. for the Education of Children
HARIBO of America
Children's Wisconsin
Michels Corporation
iDental
Kurk Concrete
SE WI Humane Society
Piggly Wiggly - Malicki's Racine
UW Milwaukee Theater
Carthage College
Western Michigan University College of Aviation
Office of the Mayor
LGBTQ+ Center of SE WI
Intl. Union Painters/ Allied Trades

UW-Whitewater
Karlsen Plumbing
Kenosha Kingfish
Los Amos Tacos
DeltaHawk Engines
Rosalind Franklin University
SMART Local 18
Sebastian's
Intl. Brotherhood of Electrical Workers
Common Links Construction
Prevent Blindness WI
TAEJAVUs on Main
Resilient by Design Healing & Consulting
WESP-DHH Outreach
Valid Kixx
LMI Packaging Solutions
Wintrust Mortgage
Oak Ridge Care Center
U.S. Air Force
Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago
Racine Police Dept.
Vertical Works Inc.
Ascension All Saints
CCB Technologies
Racine Symphony Orchestra
Visit Kenosha
Massage by K
FedEx
Kenosha Fire Dept.
UW-Platteville
WALBEC Group
FoodWise
E.C. Styberg
Team Rehabilitation Services
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Gateway Technical College
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SE WI Regional Planning Commission
Tech-Prize
Express Employment
Alliance of Therapy Dogs
Northwestern Mutual
Hands of Opportunity
Anodyne Massage
UW-Parkside
Racine Zoo
Kelly Leadership Group
Uline
Chicago Executive Airport
AAR Corp.
Racine Co. Courthouse
Boley Tours
Aramark BRP
Polaris Talent
U.S. Army National Guard



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SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Take a Tour!

We are excited to share all the great opportunities the Academies of Racine have to offer both students and employers.



To request a tour, visit rusd.org/academies.
Our student ambassadors are ready to show our schools to you!