

RUSD shares success data for Academies of Racine

BY KATIE MATTESON

When Racine Unified School District Superintendent Dr. Lolli Haws introduced the master plan for the Academies of Racine in December 2015, the vision for the transformation of the high schools had already been two years in the making.

Then-Deputy Superintendent Dr. Eric Gallien led in the development of the new career pathways concept based on a successful model developed by Ford Next Generation Learning (NGL).

According to the Ford NGL's mission: "Global competitiveness depends more than ever on the role of K-12 education in establishing the strong foundation essential for preparing a 21st century work-

force...Ford NGL is a unique and comprehensive community initiative that brings together educators, employers and community leaders to implement a proven model for transforming secondary schools, which ultimately improves the regional workforce system."

In the fall of 2016, the program became reality when the Academies of Racine launched at Case, Horlick and Park high schools with the Class of 2020 who entered their freshman year. The following fall, the Class of 2021 joined the ranks and this year the Class of 2022 began their journey.

With two years of data is the books, RUSD statistics (see graphics) point to success at all three academies in the areas of

Snapshot of Success



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

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industry certifications earned, college credits earned, scholarships awarded, freshman participation in the SEE Your Future Expo, youth apprenticeships and co-ops, number of guest speakers and sophomore participation in site visits.

Now-Superintendent of Schools Dr. Gallien, along with Chief of Schools Daniel Thielien, Deputy Chief of Secondary Transformation Jody Bloyer and Racine Area Manufacturers and Commerce President and CEO Matt Montemurro

355 Industry Certifications Earned	273 Students earned a total of 1,038.75 College Credits through Dual Credit classes	\$1,662,187 Awarded in Scholarships	358 Freshmen at the SEE Your Future Expo
40 Youth Apprenticeships and Co-ops	83 Guest Speakers	268 Sophomores Attended Site Visits	

232 Industry Certifications Earned	257 Students earned a total of 958.25 College Credits through Dual Credit classes	\$1,500,000 Awarded in Scholarships	341 Freshmen at the SEE Your Future Expo
27 Youth Apprenticeships and Co-ops	25 Guest Speakers	162 of Sophomores Attended Site Visits	

210 Industry Certifications Earned	192 Students earned a total of 757.75 College Credits through Dual Credit classes	\$2,161,863 Awarded in Scholarships	340 Freshmen at the SEE Your Future Expo
37 Youth Apprenticeships and Co-ops	78 Guest Speakers	199 Sophomores Attended Site Visits	

gathered for a briefing with Belle City Magazine prior to a luncheon co-hosted by RUSD and RAMAC to update the business community on the Academies of Racine program, set for Wednesday, Sept. 26 at Roma Lodge.

"We anticipate that this event, now in its second year, will serve as an annual 'State of the District' for our partners at RAMAC and other stakeholders in the community," Dr. Gallien said.

During the luncheon, Dr. Gallien said he and his team will report on the overall performance of the district, present the results of key initiatives and highlight the impact and return on investment of the Academies of Racine.

Dr. Gallien said that the district's partnership with the business community is "not just a buzzword."

"We need each other," Dr.

Gallien said.

Montemurro explained RAMAC has been involved in the development of the program since the beginning in order to support local workforce development, along with other local partners such as Gateway Technical College, University of Wisconsin-Parkside, Higher Expectations, United Way, Racine County Workforce Development and more.

He said that his predecessor Jim Ladwig, traveled with a contingent of local leaders to Nashville to visit a NGL site while the group was exploring various models for transforming Racine's high schools.

"Our companies are thrilled to work with the district on co-ops, youth apprenticeships and job shadowing for students and externships for teachers," Montemurro said. "The business community has tremendous faith in Dr. Gallien and the

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Academies of Racine *continued from previous page*

work being done.”

Thielen explained that the transformation of business and civic engagement is one of the three framework strands in the Ford NGL model. The other two are the transformation of teaching and learning, as well as transforming the secondary school experience.

This reorganization transcends the high school and aligns with district-wide priorities contained in its five-year strategic plan called “Raising Racine 2022.” It lays out the district’s priorities:

1. Be the educational choice for families in the southeast region of Wisconsin
2. Accelerate higher levels of student performance
3. Close student achievement gaps
4. Ensure positive, engaging environments
5. Endorse learning paths for

post-secondary training, college and career readiness for every student

These priorities are also linked to the district’s North Star Vision that “all students will graduate career and/or college ready” and its four Pillars of Excellence: Student Learning, Culture & Environment, Partnerships & Community and Financial and Operational Excellence.

Bloyer, who served as directing principal of Case High School prior to her new role, said that she’s seen a mindshift happening among the students since the introduction of the Academies.

“They definitely see the connection between what they’re learning in school and the workplace,” Bloyer said. “And they appreciate the new opportunities that the new structure creates.”

Experiential Learning Model Across All Pathways



12th Grade
Interdisciplinary

Capstone Projects • Dual Credit • Industry Certification • Internships
Cooperative Work Experience • Youth Apprenticeships • Senior Job Fair

11th Grade
Multiple Pathways

Job Shadowing • Dual Credit • Industry Certification
Post-Secondary Program Exploration • Youth Apprenticeship Fair

10th Grade
Pathway Assimilation

Career Exploration through Coordinated Learning Experiences Site Visits & Student Organizations

9th Grade
High School Transition & Career Exploration

Summer Bridge • Freshman Seminar • SEE Your Future Academy Expo
Commitment to Graduate • Gateway Promise • College Visits • Declaration Ceremony

Career Pathways and Academies



Accounting
Automotive
Aviation
Biomedical Sciences
Business
Construction
Culinary Arts
Early Childhood & Education
Engineering
Health Services
Information Technology
Manufacturing
Marketing
United States Army JROTC



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