

Org-Type	Non-Profit-based		
Lead	National Academy Foundation	PoC	Jenny Pethkongkathon
PoC-Phone	212-635-2400, ext. 254	PoC-Email	jenny@naf.org
Address	39 Broadway, Suite 1640, NY, 10006		
URL			
Service-Region	Nationwide		
Type	Student Program		
Subjects	Other		
Level	Undergraduate		
Other-Objectives			
Served-per-Year	10,000	Demographics	
Content	<p>NAF sustains a nation-wide network of career-themed Academies that are organized as small learning communities. NAF students remain together throughout their high school years with a core group of specially trained teachers. This innovative small learning community or "schools within schools" concept was the vision of NAF's Founder, Sanford I. Weill, the corporate leader and philanthropist. Since its founding other leaders have joined Weill and supported NAF's mission, including Ken Chenault of American Express, Terry McGraw of McGraw Hill and Chuck Prince of Citigroup. NAF's small school vision emphasizes academic excellence while preparing students to pursue professional careers in the corporate sector. This vision has evolved into a premier reform model for public education throughout the country, and has helped inspire the contemporary small school/ small learning community movement.</p>		
Outcomes	<p>The Academy Internship Experience The paid internship is perhaps the most memorable and critical component in the NAF Academy experience for high school students. It is also one of the most rewarding, as it is the opportunity for students to apply, in a real-world setting, what they've learned in their Academy classes in the preceding years. To ensure that the students' paid internship lives up to expectations, all stakeholders must invest an appropriate amount of time and resources. A paid internship is not just a summer job. It is an extension of the Academy classroom instruction and curriculum, further developed and challenged in a business environment, supervised by business leaders in a real-world setting, resulting in a broad, relevant, enriching educational experience for the student. Done correctly, paid internships provide the context in which a student's classroom learning is applied. But the paid internship doesn't stop at just applying classroom skills in a work environment. It also exposes the student to a broad view of work experiences and situations, which could be expected if the student were to pursue a career in that field. And, the student is also exposed to a broad array of soft, workplace skills: critical thinking, teamwork, decorum, ethics, creativity, time management, ingenuity, honesty, problem-solving, compartment, and a solid understanding of the importance of excellent written and oral communications skills. This combination of benefits provides a valuable foundation for any career the student chooses to pursue in the future.</p>		
Started		Funded-Through	
Length	Ongoing	Cost	
Primary-Funding		Primary-\$	
Materials			
Other-Funding			
How-Assessed			
Best-Practice-Why	<p>More than 90% of NAF students graduate from high school - compared to 50% in the urban areas where most NAF Academies are located. 4 out of 5 NAF students go on to post-secondary education. 52% of NAF students complete 4-year college degrees in 4 years - compared with 32% nationally. Of those, more than half are the first in their families to go to college. 90% of students feel that the Academies helped them to develop career plans. 85% of 5- and 10-year alumni are working in a professional field.</p>		
Promising-Practice			
Sponsor		Sponsor-Org	
Sponsor-Phone		Sponsor-Email	
Other-Orgs	<p>AAA American Hotel & Lodging Association American Institute of CPAs American Society of Travel Agents CalScan - San Francisco, CA Certified Financial Planner Board of Standards Diversity Pipeline National Business Travel Association National Council for Economic Education National Endowment for Financial Education New York State Society of CPAs RITEC</p>		