
Press Release



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May 9, 2017

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NAF Academy of Finance at Lancaster High School Earns National "Distinguished" Recognition

The Lancaster High School Academy of Finance is among 40 career academies recently awarded NAF's Distinguished Level recognition, and has received distinguished level seven years in a row, joining only three other academies to earn this standing as often.

This designation is given to a select few who have reached Model Level on NAF's annual assessment, exhibiting "strong fidelity to an educational design that prepares students for success in college and careers." Model Level is determined by an academy's score on the assessment, which measures strengths and challenges in implementing NAF's results-driven educational design, followed by an onsite visit to the academy. The visit is conducted by a team of distinguished leaders, outside experts, and NAF staff to verify that the academy is meeting fidelity to an educational design that prepares students for success in college and careers. A subset of these high performing academies meet additional thresholds to reach Distinguished Level – NAF's highest level of achievement.

The assessment is designed to help all academies measure their progress and move up on the continuum of NAF's standards.

"It is an honor and a privilege each year to recognize those academies that have exhibited exceptional fidelity to an educational design that prepares students for college and career success. We also are proud to spotlight our model academies who have upheld NAF's commitment to quality and have adhered to the higher levels of assessment to reach their status. Congratulations on a job well done and we look forward to many more years of service and success," said Katherine Blasik, Vice President, Research and Evaluation, at NAF.

The Distinguished and Model Academies will be recognized at NAF Next, NAF's annual professional development conference, in Dallas TX this July.

"This recognition is a testament to all those who help make our academy a success," said Scott Dixon, academy director.

"Without our students, teachers, business and community partners, we couldn't achieve this level of success."

The Lancaster High School Academy of Finance is part of NAF, a national network of education, business, and community leaders who work together to ensure that high school students are college, career, and future ready.

About NAF:

NAF works to transform the high school experience through an educational design that includes industry-specific curricula, work-based learning experiences, and relationships with business professionals, culminating in paid internships. NAF academies fit within and enhance school systems, allowing NAF to become an integral part of a plan for higher achievement at a low cost. NAF academies focus on one of five career themes: finance, hospitality and tourism, information technology, engineering, and health sciences. During the 2016-17 school year more than 96,000 students attended 675 NAF academies across 36 states, including D.C. and the U.S. Virgin Islands. In 2016, NAF academies reported 96 percent of seniors graduated, with 92 percent of graduates with post-secondary intentions. For more information, please visit: <http://naf.org/>

About Lancaster Academy of Finance:

The Lancaster High School Academy of Finance (AOF) was established in 2004 and has earned the highest possible level of achievement with NAF (www.naf.org) as a distinguished academy each year since 2011; only one of four academies throughout a network of nearly 700 academies serving over 96,000 students across 36 states to reach this level seven times.

The Academy of Finance serves as a small learning community composed of approximately 10 percent of the Lancaster High School population in which students complete coursework focused on business and finance and is integrated into the core curriculum. The AOF provides students with numerous opportunities to discover how learning in high-school is relevant and connects directly to college and career success through direct exposure and experience with professionals in the workplace. An advisory board and community partnership representing more than 100 local businesses, organizations and colleges provide a robust work-based-learning program that includes professional coaching, college-level coursework, work-site tours, career training, job-shadows and paid internship experiences for more than 200 students annually.

For more information please, please visit: <http://naf.org/> and www.lancasterschools.org/