

# CAREER ACADEMY CONVERSATION

National Academy Foundation (NAF) Summer Institute  
Philadelphia Marriott Hotel  
Monday, July 12, 2010

This Conversation was hosted by the National Academy Foundation. Sixteen people attended this lively conversation representing 12 organizations and school districts. The agenda was organized around the four key topics that were detailed in the briefing paper ***High School Career Academies: A 40-Year Proven Model for Improving College and Career Readiness*** written by Betsy Brand of AYPF. These four areas were determined at the November 2009 Conversation and continued at the March 1 Conversation.

## ◆ ACADEMY CURRICULA

The committee for this topic is:

- Penni Hudis (Co-CHAIR) (ConnectEd)
- Ilene Kantrov (EDC)
- Cheryl Carrier (FordPAS)
- JD Hoyer added Andy Rothstein from NAF to the committee.
- Erin Fender (Co-CHAIR) (CASN)
- David Ross (Buck Institute)

In the absence of the committee chairs, Rob Atterbury provided the report. The committee has met by phone several times, has used the CASN searchable curriculum database as a resource and has crafted a curriculum upload instrument which everyone reviewed. It was suggested that “energy” be added to the career cluster and/or industry sectors. We know there are many types of curriculum out there that are suitable for academies and everyone felt that there should be a place to list who was endorsing the curriculum.

There was discussion on funding for this curriculum project. Someone will need to vet the curriculum and keep up this curriculum directory. It was agreed that NAF, CASN and NCAC would have a conversation about this and make some recommendations at the November Conversation.

## ◆ WORKPLACE LEARNING

Workplace learning did not have a committee; however, as a result of the discussion, a committee was recommended and is comprised of:

- Rob Atterbury (CHAIR) (ConnectEd)
- Svetlana Darsche (WestEd)
- Michelle Swanson (Swanson and Cosgrave)
- Deanna Hanson (NAF)
- Chris Force (Duval, FL Schools)
- Wendy Sebranek (Philadelphia Academies)

Deanna Hanson discussed the investment NAF has made in developing internship materials. The final Gold Standards for Internships, developed in conjunction with many on this committee, is on their website as are their new Getting Started Guides for Internships. NAF now refers to their internships as “compensated” as opposed to “paid” which can include pay and/or credit or other forms of compensation. Rob discussed ConnectEd’s work with internships also and their concerns regarding legal issues connected with them. They brought a group together in California to discuss the topic more broadly. NAF has developed a group of Internship Fellows representing both education and the business community. Their role is evolving and includes the development of an internship assessment system. Rob Atterbury will be a member of that group, representing ConnectEd.

The P-21 emerging national movement was discussed. It is a governor-led initiative that organizes states to work on workforce development. Currently 14 states are involved. An assessment platform is being developed and will be pilot tested by 2013. WestEd is providing an assessment.

The new committee will work with the NAF Internship Fellows group to further look at workplace readiness assessments and bring some recommendations to the November Conversation.

## ◆ ACADEMY QUALITY AND CREDENTIALING

Academy quality did not have a committee; however, as a result of the discussion, a committee was recommended and is comprised of:

- Mary Visher (CHAIR) MDRC
- Arlene LaPlante (ConnectEd)
- Louis Simmons (Duval, FL Schools)
- Angie Grasberger (NCAC)
- Charlie Dayton (CASN)
- Chris Force (Duval, FL Schools)
- Someone from Philadelphia Academies
- Someone from NAF

Susan Katzman reported on NCAC's continued work with assessing career academies based on the National Standards of Practice. NCAC has never advertised this process nationally and will begin doing so in the next few months. This will also include certifying more national reviewers. NAF has developed a Performance Measurement System which includes a self assessment process, data outputs via the ConnectED platform and student/teacher/parent surveys to inform planning for improvement with its 500 academies. ConnectEd has developed an internal assessment and certification process for academies/pathways within its Linked Learning initiative, which is funded by the Irvine Foundation. ConnectEd has met with WASC in California to discuss the potential of working together on assessment.

It was agreed by all that assessment and credentialing is important and that we want career academies to own their excellence. We need to factor in the industry certification needs in states like Florida. The National Standards are the barometer for all our work and it is understood that some academy models drill deeper into some of the Standards. We need to ensure that we all still buy into the Standards that we developed together in 2002. It was also discussed that requiring schools and academies to duplicate very similar assessment processes when they are affiliated with multiple organizations is very time consuming. We will further discuss how these various assessments can not only be aligned but also at some point, perhaps "endorsed" by each organization.

It was agreed that the name of the committee be changed to: ACADEMY STANDARDS AND ASSESSMENT. The committee will discuss all of this and provide a report at the November Conversation.

## ◆ ACADEMY NATIONAL RECOGNITION AND SUPPORT

The committee for this topic is:

- David Stern (CASN)
- Rob Ivry (MDRC)
- Gary Hoachlander (ConnectEd)
- Adjunct: JD Hoyer (NAF), Susan Katzman (NCAC), Betsy Brand (AYPF)
- Charlie Dayton (CASN)
- Kim Green (Natl. Assn. of State Directors of CTE)

Much of the discussion centered on this topic. JD Hoyer reported that Glenn Cummings, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the US DOE Office of Vocational & Adult Education, has asked us for short videos that illustrate what academies are and for specific language that can be potentially incorporated into the ESEA legislation. These items are needed soon. JD and Susan met with Glenn at the NAF Institute and discussed where there might be some national discretionary monies to develop items for projects that have national significance such as internships, a curriculum database, an academy directory database, etc. It is important to emphasize that both college and career readiness are important.

ConnectEd reported on their efforts to move Linked Learning (AB2648) legislation forward. Congresswoman Judy Chu, 32nd district in California, will introduce a bill federally. Linked Learning is defined more broadly than career academies, pointing to the systems within school districts that address college and career success for students. Career academies represent a well-researched model for doing this. It was suggested that we research which other states currently have legislation that addresses college and career success and that Kim Green's organization may already have this information. Susan will contact Kim, and also ask her what the state directors for CTE are doing about college and career.

The conversation turned to the importance of developing common messages that we, as the career academy community, want to send and that marketing ideas are needed. ConnectEd and the James Irvine Foundation are currently working with Spitfire Public Relations, a Canadian consulting firm, to develop

messaging to move the Linked Learning field forward. It was suggested that perhaps their work could be expanded to help us develop marketing messages that the Irvine Foundation might support.

Two informational items were shared that people may want to learn about: (1) Bob Schwartz's book entitled **Pathways to Prosperity** and the National Center on Education and the Economy's "Move on When Ready" project.

### **NEXT CONVERSATIONS**

- November 6-9: *National Career Academy Coalition Conference, Austin*
- March 3-5, 2011: *California Partnership Academy Conference, Sacramento*