

## Workforce Summit – Breaking Out! Sessions

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Hilton & Towers

Pittsburgh, PA

### More Than Just Money: Developing Applicable Skill Sets in Education

#### INTRODUCTION

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**Presenter:** Steve Markbreiter, Director, Academy Programs, National Academy Foundation

#### PRESENTATION TRANSCRIPT

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Making a focus available to high school students.

-Curriculums, internships, and staff development

Family Model:

WTC-what we do for youth is important.

#### Questions:

1. What is a Career Academy?

Answer: Part of a school that focuses on a specific career.

2. What is the National Academy Foundation?

Answer: It is a bilingual program, two languages, which are business & education.

Year starts

July 1 Fiscal

Jan 1 Year

Sept. & Aug. School year

Some difficulties are calling teachers, machinery working properly, block of disengaged students.

-Forgotten 50-70%

Don't seem to accelerate

Don't get into trouble

Quantity not enough students

Quality not educated enough

National Academy History

Academy of Finance:

-shortage of entry-level workers

-went to NYC board of education

-partnered with high school offered two years of financial courses (academy of finance)

-35 students-promised B students jobs

-offered jobs

-none accepted jobs

-34 went to college-successful failure, provided direction

1987-travel/tourism academy

1989-NAF

2001-IT

470 schools in network  
39 states including Washington D.C.  
2 pilots, one being Britain

A school within a school gives students a smaller school community.  
Industry validated curriculum  
Local advisory board consists of company executives and community colleges.  
Paid student internships=real work  
Curriculum online=available and updateable/current  
Internship opportunities  
Staff development (2 teacher/year)

Lessons learned:

- industry wide participation
- intermediaries are key to partnerships/community organizations
- develop a replicable model (flexible at a local level)
- controlled growth, quality first

Questions from Audience:

1. Why do we not have this? How do we get this?

Answer- Submit a proposal, begin year of planning, after that year full benefits of academy.  
Advisory boards should be regional, should not duplicate because of competition reasons.

2. Curriculum? Problems how to accommodate 8 courses?

Only take some, which can be approved by the state.

RESULTS:

Students-

are more engaged in school  
recognize the industry

Alumni-

are better prepared from college  
33% of finance grads get offer from internship  
well prepared students do well  
75-80% go on to college

Teachers-

find that a condition for staying in teaching is academies

Business Partners-

If students see value of jobs provided in community they are more likely to stay.

Next Steps-

integrate business & schools

Audience-

Industry created curriculum helps students get and do well in internships

## **SESSION ISSUES USED FOR FACILITATED GROUP DISCUSSION:**

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- Just develop a clear skill model to facilitate job matches
- Students are apprehensive about pursuing math and economics fields
- Skill standards not representative of industry demand
- Need to enable collaboration with industry and education

## **ADDITIONAL ISSUES RAISED BY AUDIENCE**

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1. Fitting this curriculum into existing curriculum.
2. Young people don't view this industry as "hot"
3. Vocational/technical schools

Providing internships to students, and externships for teachers.

Mentoring, job shadowing, speakers in classrooms, create a pipeline.

The ideal goal is to get students to participate, to graduate, go to college, get a job, and sit on the board.

Vocational tech. Schools

2-4 years of college necessary

### Challenges for Teachers:

- working with curriculum
- access to info (some have to from home)
- how do they select students?
  - not honors program
  - based on interest
  - choose randomly (fair)
- how to recruit students
  - talk with students about it

How to integrate math to make it interesting to students/ is it separate?

IT has done it, infusing math/IT