



Issue 34  
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# Spotlight on Success

The spotlight is on...

## THE 2007 Academy Roundup

OUR ANNUAL REVIEW OF PROGRESS AND SUCCESS



It's that time of year...the school year is nearly over, summer's beckoning, and our Academy leaders and staff have worked hard to reach this point: *academy evaluations*. This issue presents a summary of each academy; a brief snapshot. Incredibly, it was back in February 2004 that we first announced the award of the Smaller Learning Communities planning grant, followed by the implementation grant. Look how far we have come! Only those working behind the scenes truly realize the effort, sweat, struggles, and victories that have brought us this far. And to you, words can't really express how much you have accomplished. But still we say... *well done!*

Inside, we have summarized the academies by high school, in alphabetical order of the school. We have also provided an overview of the academy classifications—the criteria that academy evaluators use to measure success. These standards are determined by the Academy Conversations Group, an informal consortium of career academy organizations. The Career Academy National Standards of Practice (NSOP) are framed around ten key elements of successful implementation, drawn from years of research and experience from all parts of the country. Manatee's own Angie Grasberger was the originator of the rubric—or scoring guide—that formed the basis of these standards.

### Does a College Degree Mean Financial Security?

A growing number of college graduates in South Florida are classified as poor. An article in the Herald recently reported about a family whose top provider has a college degree and is only making \$15,000 a year. This family is not alone; almost six million college grads are living in poverty despite having a bachelor's degree or higher. Talk to your students about the need to hone in on a high skill, high wage job. Right here in Manatee County they can attend MTI and earn a career in less than a year that will start them in a high wage career and keep them on track for the technological advancements of the future. Show students how much they can expect to make in their chosen fields and how much it costs to live and support a family. We must all work together to ensure our students are leaving our schools with the skills and knowledge to make the right choices.

*Doug Wagner, Director Adult, Career and Technical Education*

### Upcoming Events

#### Staff Development Opportunities

- Braden River High School  
Teachers as Advisors/Mentors  
June 4 & 5
- Team Planning with Coaches  
June 6 & 7

#### Model Schools Conference

- Washington, D.C.  
June 30 - July 3, 2007

#### CES Small Schools Summer Institute

- Miami Beach, Florida  
July 9-13, 2007

#### National Tech Prep Conference

- Louisville, Kentucky  
October 10-13, 2007

#### National Career Academy Coalition Conference

- St. Louis, Missouri  
November 3-6, 2007



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**Around the District**

Watch for all of the publications keeping you informed about what's happening around the District in Adult, Career & Technical Education.



ACT Update



Spotlight on Success



Take Stock in Children



Manatee Stars



InquiziKIDZ and the Job Center in the Herald



**Academy Roundup by High School**

**Bayshore High School**

**The BIZ—Bayshore Business Academy.** Status: *Model.* Business education with an entrepreneurial focus. Providing students with a personalized, sequenced, rich array of academic and career experiences, equipping students for success in their future educational, career and social endeavors. Lil Maddox & Bonnie Condor, co-leaders.

**FAME (Fine Arts for a Meaningful Education).** Status: *Certified.* A center of excellence for the fine and performing arts, with academics and technology that empower lifelong student learning. Lynne Hodalski, leader.

**TEAM (Technology Engineering Architecture Manufacturing).** Status: *Level 2, District Certification.* Pre-engineering academy promoting college readiness and engineering careers by learning logical, succinct, and detail-oriented processes that are essential to success in the world of engineering. Charles Heister and Tim Estep, co-leaders.

**Coming in August 2007: Pre-College and College Center at Bayshore High** in collaboration with Manatee Community College. Endeavors to provide an educational bridge from high school to college. Offers students the opportunity to earn at least 30 college credits and the possibility of an Associate Degree from MCC by the time they graduate.

**Braden River High School**

**Academy of Business & International Studies.** Status: *Certified.* Prepares students for world citizenship and careers in domestic and global marketplaces by providing an exciting spectrum of experiences with languages, cultures, and business. Bill Gaynor and Marlene McCormick, co-leaders

**Academy of Engineering Technology & Leadership.** Status: *Certified.* Preparing students to become informed, capable, and conscientious consumers and employees in the world of engineering, drafting and leadership. Gil Burlew and Deb Daigle, co-leaders.

**Academy of Fine Arts & Communication Technology.** Status: *Certified.* Connecting artistic expression and everyday life by exploring communication through performing, writing, reporting and various forms of media. Bill Ferrell and Jennifer Dobbs, co-leaders.

**Academy of Science Technology & Health.** Status: *Certified.* Provides students with hands-on, real-world experience in the broad area of science and health. Includes the county's only veterinary assisting program, horticulture, anatomy & physiology and more! Deb Alwin and Steve Eller, co-leaders.

## Community High School

**Success Academy.** Status: *Endorsed*. Inspiring high school students from all backgrounds to attain their full potential through career skills in culinary, travel/tourism, and drafting design. Suzette Marquette, Linda Owens, and Ralph Vincent, co-leaders.

## Lakewood Ranch High School

**The Academy of the Arts.** Status: **New!** *Endorsed*. Cultivating creative, imaginative, and innovative skills leading to successful careers, with a focus on performing arts, visual arts, print media, drama, choir, or music. Alicia Moody and Roxane Caravan, co-leaders.

**The Academy of Business, Marketing & International Studies.** Status: *Certified*. Provides a new generation of professionals in the public and private sectors with communication skills and multicultural understanding for today's global business arena. Bobbi Colson and Jason Richardson, co-leaders.

**The Academy of Public Service.** Status: *Certified*. Focusing on the roles, responsibilities, issues, and trends related to leadership training, law enforcement, public safety, criminal justice, firefighting, and public service. Carol Lidey and Carol Jensen, co-leaders. **Coming soon:** Center for Technology, Math & Science and the Center for Liberal Arts Education.

## Manatee High School

**Academy of Medical Arts & Sciences.** Status: *Certified*. Preparing students for healthcare and veterinary careers through a rigorous, relevant health and

academic program. Laura Sollenberger, leader. Non-academy smaller learning communities: AP+ Honors Program and the Center for Design & Construction. **Coming soon:** Center for Business Entrepreneurship.

## Palmetto High School

**Agriscience Academic Academy.** Status: *Certified*. Creating a nurturing academic environment where students can learn, grow, and achieve success in agricultural-related careers. Carolyn Gilbert and Adam Baggett, co-leaders

**Academy for Construction Design.** Status: **New!** *Certified*. Training students in all aspects of building and designing while preparing them to build a business. Bob Lounds and David Sell, co-leaders.

**The Education Academy.** Status: *Endorsed*. Prepares future educators with an emphasis on technology. Lynda Elkin, leader.

## Southeast High School

**HALO Academy (Healthy Alternatives & Leadership Opportunities).** Status: *Endorsed*. Four distinct pathways under one of two areas, healthy alternatives or leadership. Healthy alternatives includes culinary and nutrition, The leadership opportunity includes sports marketing and public relations. Cheryl Gaynor, leader.

**Visual & Performing Arts Academy (VPA).** Status: *Certified*. Preparing students for advanced training in dance and drama, music, computer graphics, and fine arts. Kathy Campbell & Barbara Tapley Kenney, co-leaders.

*The only person who is educated is the one who has learned how to learn...and change.*  
Carl R. Rogers

## Academy Classifications: What Does It Mean?

When an academy is classified as “endorsed,” “certified” or “model,” these classifications have specific criteria. The following is summarized from the National Career Academy Coalition’s *National Standards of Practice*.

### Academy Classifications

*Model Academy* – Exceeds all criteria for each standard

*Certified Academy* – Meets criteria for each standard

*Endorsed Academy* – In progress for 8 – 10 of the standards

### Definitions

*Exceeds Criteria* – Exhibits all and/or other sample documentation in all 10 components

*Meets Criteria* – Exhibits 50% or more of sample documentation in all 10 components

*In Progress* – Exhibits at least one sample documentation in 1 – 9 of the 10 components

### Criteria

**I. Defined Mission & Goals.** The career academy has a written definition of its mission and goals. These are available to the administrators, teachers, students, parents, advisory board, and others involved in the academy. Three criteria:

1. Focus on college & career.
2. To raise student aspirations and commitment
3. To increase student achievement

**II. Academy Structure.** An academy needs to have a well defined structure within the high school, reflecting its status as a small learning community.

1. Cross-grade articulation
2. Student selection
3. Cohort scheduling
4. Physical space
5. Small size, supportive atmosphere

**III. Host District and High School.** Career academies exist in a district and high school context. These contexts are important determinants of an academy's success.

1. Support from the Board of Education and Superintendent
2. Support from the principal and high school administration
3. Adequate funding, facilities, equipment, and materials

**IV. Faculty & Staff.** Appropriate teacher selection, leadership, credentialing, and cooperation are critical to an academy's success.

1. Teacher Leader(s) / Coordinator(s)
2. Teachers are credentialed in their field, volunteer in the academy, and are committed to its mission and goals
3. Counselors, non-academy teachers, and certificated staff are supportive

**V. Professional Development.** Since an academy places teachers and other adults into roles not normally included in their previous training, providing adequate professional development time, leadership, and support is critical.

1. Common planning time
2. Teacher professional development
3. Employer & parent orientation

**VI. Governance & Leadership.** The academy has a governing structure that incorporates the views of all stakeholders.

1. Advisory board with broad representation
2. Regular meetings

3. A healthy partnership
4. A student voice

**VII. Curriculum & Instruction.** The curriculum and instruction within an academy meet external standards and college entrance requirements, while differing from a regular high school by focusing learning around a theme.

1. Meets external standards
2. Meets college entrance requirements
3. Curriculum is sequenced, integrated, rigorous, and relevant
4. Post-graduate planning
5. Dual credit options

**VIII. Employer, Higher Education, & Community Involvement.** A career academy links high school to its host community and involves members of the employer, higher education and civic community in certain aspects of its operation.

1. Career theme fits the local economy
2. Community involvement
3. Incorporates citizenship
4. Work-/community-based learning

**IX. Student Assessment.** Improvements in student performance are central to an academy's mission. It is important to gather data that reflect whether students are showing improvement and to report these accurately and fairly to maintain the academy's integrity.

1. Student data are collected
2. Multiple academic measures are included
3. Technical learning is assessed
4. Accurate reporting
5. Evidence of impact

**X. Cycle of Improvement.** No new academy functions perfectly. Even well established and operated academies benefit from self examination and refinement. Ensuring and improving the quality of a career academy requires engaging in a regular cycle of improvement.

1. Academy implementation is examined
2. Academy refinements are planned
3. Changes reflect the academy's mission and goals

*"What sculpture is to a block of marble, education is to the soul."*

*Joseph Addison*

## **Academy News... "Work Hard and Have Fun"**

*Angie Grasberger Reports*

As of August 2007 two Manatee County High Schools will be "Wall-to-Wall" SLCs and/or career academies where every student will be part of a team and on the path to future success. Our teachers are excited about the prospect of benefits to our students. As summer approaches, they are preparing to attend summer conferences, staff development opportunities, and also participate in curriculum planning. As Dr. Dearing would say "Work hard and have fun."