

# First Annual Nebraska Career Academy Program Report

**November 16, 2010**

This report is the first compilation of career academy program reports offered across Nebraska. Career Academies are hosted by school districts, Educational Service Units (ESU) and community colleges.

Special Thanks to the following contributors:

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For more information on local academy programs, please go to:  
<http://partnershipsforinnovation.org/career-academy/>

*Report compiled by*



## **ESU 4 Career Academy Profile**

*In 2008, we began discussions with our Advisory group about our Perkins initiative of starting a Career Academy. After meeting with our advisory and surveying the students, we decided on the Health Science Program of Study to be our first Career Academy. We toured different Career Academies and debated the different models of delivery. Our superintendents felt overwhelming that the “pocket academy” model, patterned after the Northeast Career Academy Project, would best be utilized in our area. In the fall of 2010, we began with 6 schools beginning their Health Science Academy. We currently have approximately 60 students enrolled. The Community Medical Center of Falls City got on board and has donated health supply tubs for our schools.*

*Our Advisory also chose our next program to be Energy. With NPPD as our champion, we began meeting with an Energy Academy Advisory, made up of people from NPPD, OPPD, education and local entities. Due to energy being still a relatively new area in education, our focus looked toward providing all the necessary resources for instructors to adequately teach our students. The NDE innovation grant was written and awarded. With this grant in place, we met with a team in July to begin working on developing energy curriculum.*

*In October, we met with our advisory to discuss our future. A school in our district is already doing a similar academy model in education. We also discussed business and entrepreneur. The most exciting aspect of this is not so much our next program of study but that we see Career Academy continuing into the future.*

# CAREER ACADEMIES AT METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY COLLEGE

A Career Academy at Metropolitan Community College is designed to provide high school juniors and seniors with opportunities to explore various career fields and get a jumpstart on their post-secondary education.

*"I remember that we are to be respectful and responsible for our own learning from this point on, we are in charge of our future and the options of jobs and things need to be kept in mind always." ~ Kiaya Barr, Theater Academy Student*

Through the Career Academy, students will learn and apply:

- practical skills and information for specific career areas
- safety procedures
- employability skills
- interpersonal skills for the workplace

Students must:

- be a high school junior or senior
- be 16 years old or older
- be selected to participate by application
- have transportation to and from classes/internship site



## Programs in 2010 – 2011

Auto Collision Technology  
Automotive Technology (*Juniors Preferred*)  
Certified Nursing Assistant(CNA)  
Computer Programming  
Criminal Justice  
Data Center  
Diesel Technology  
Digital Cinema/Filmmaking  
Early Childhood Education  
Electrical Technology  
Emergency Medical Technician (EMT)(*Seniors Only for EMT*) Game Design  
Medical Office Technology  
Small Engines/Precision Machining Technology  
Theatre Technology  
Web Page Development  
Welding Technology



MCC Career Academies were started over ten years ago. In 2008, there were 356 (duplicated count) students who earned 1303.5 credit hours. In 2009, there were 364 (duplicated count) students who earned 2409.5 credit hours. This quarter, Fall 2010, there are 130 (unduplicated) students enrolled in 945 credit hours. Instructional delivery includes both online and face-to-face instruction. Information is sent to all high schools in the four county service area, with nearly forty high schools currently participating.

Plans for next year include offering two new academies, Introduction to the Trades/Manufacturing/Internship, and Residential Energy Management.

## MID-PLAINS COMMUNITY COLLEGE CAREER ACADEMIES

In Fiscal Year 2009-10, the MPCC Health Science Academy was developed and piloted at three area secondary schools to include North Platte Public, Dundy County/Stratton, and Arnold. The implementation of this project received support from an innovation grant.

The program allows for three levels of participation:

- |                    |  |
|--------------------|--|
| Academy Level      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Introduction To Health Careers (required high school class only)</li><li>• Medical Terminology (required Dual Credit/College Credit)</li><li>• College level Health Science Course(s) (Can choose from several)</li><li>• Documented work related experience (required)</li><li>• Eligible for the MPCC Health Science Academy Certificate</li></ul> <p>Certificates will be issued to students who complete at least 3 of the suggested Health Science College Credit Courses to include a minimum of one capstone course and a minimum of 15 hours of work related experience.</p> |
| Pathway Level      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Same requirements as above except no work related experience</li><li>• No certificate awarded</li></ul>  |
| Career Focus Level | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Selected dual credit/college credit classes in Health Science</li></ul>  |

Presently there are 6 secondary schools participating in the Academy. Additional 4-5 districts are planning to begin in the Spring semester. Several schools are also involved at the pathway and focus levels.

MPCC is in the planning and development stages of providing an Education Academy to be piloted at selected high schools in Spring 2011. A recent survey indicated an interest from over 80% of the area secondary schools. We will follow similar course planning and program requirements as outlined for the Health Science Academy. All schools will be able to participate beginning in Fiscal Year 2011-12.

Plans for a Business Administration/Management Academy will begin in Fiscal Year 2011/2012.

**NENCAP Partners: ESU 1, 2, 8, 17, Norfolk Senior High,  
South Sioux City Schools, & Northeast Community College**

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**Structure**

The Northeast Nebraska Career Academy Partnership (NENCAP) Board oversees the career academy project and provides direction for future academies. Academies are housed within high schools to serve students with these components: Career themes that reflect the local community; Students are prepared for college and career; Curriculum is sequenced and integrates academics and career-based learning; Dual credit opportunities exist to earn high school and college credit for courses; Links to business, civic community, and higher education.

**Participating Schools**

The groundwork for creating a career academy was started during the 2008-09 academic year. We currently offer one career academy in the field of Health Sciences.

The following 13 high schools participated in the Health Sciences Academy during Year 1 (2009-10): ESU 1 area: Creighton, Hartington Public, Pender, and South Sioux City. ESU 2 area: Bancroft-Rosalie, West Point-Beemer, Wisner-Pilger. ESU 8 area: Ewing, Osmond, Newman Grove, Stanton, O'Neill, Norfolk. Additional high schools joining during Year 2 (2010-11) for a total of 22 participating schools: ESU 1 area: Wayne. ESU 2 area: Lyons-Decatur, Oakland-Craig. ESU 8 area: Battle Creek, Elkhorn Valley, Madison, O'Neill St. Mary's, Orchard, West Boyd.

**2009-10 Student Involvement**

A total of 277 students participated (duplicated count, if a student took more than one course this year).

**Instructional Content**

The Health Sciences Academy consists of a series of three courses

- (1) Intro to Health Science** (Offered face-to-face for high school credit only.) **(2) Medical Terminology**, NURS 1095/OFFT 1095- 2 cr. (Offered face-to-face [some distance learning between high schools] for articulated credit.) **(3) Basic Nurse Aide**, NURA 1110- 3 cr. (Offered in the high schools and community [some receiving the lecture through distance learning] taught by a Nurse for dual credit.)

Ninety high school students involved in the Health Science academy this year were able to take a charter bus tour to the University of Nebraska Medical Center and Creighton Cadaver Lab.

Career academies are based upon Nebraska Department of Education Career and Technical Education model. To fulfill the Federal Perkins guidelines: Secondary/Post-secondary connections, dual credit emphasis, sequencing of classes in CTE area, and programs of study.

**Professional Development**

Approximately 100 contact hours have been provided to high school teachers in health science instruction since the beginning of the project. These hours do not include time spent by teachers taking the NECC online Medical Terminology course during the summer, which is required to teach the Med Term course. Involved teachers also created an online learning repository of teaching tools and resources that is constantly being added to and shared among teachers within the health sciences academy.

**Future Expansion & Goals**

We are currently working on academies in the areas of Environmental & Agriculture Systems with a focus on agriculture and Industrial, Manufacturing & Engineering Systems with a focus on drafting. Additional efforts are underway develop a system to track the progress of career academy students and to create and implement an evaluation system to assess the effectiveness of the academies offered.

This project funded with federal Carl D. Perkins funds provided through the Career and Technical Education Act of 2006, administered through the Nebraska Department of Education, grant number V048A100027.

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## Papillion LaVista School District

The **Health Systems Academy** and the **Zoo Academy** at Papillion-La Vista School District began in 2009-10, however, much planning and preparation occurred in prior years. These two academies aligned very nicely with 6 career fields and 16 clusters of the Nebraska Career Education Model and serve 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> graders from Papillion-La Vista High School and Papillion-La Vista South High School. The selection and eventual development of these two academies was based on local, state, and national data which reflected future career opportunity trends. Results of interest inventories and access to business-and-industry partnerships were also instrumental in sealing the decision to develop these 2 academies. This data will also be used to determine the development of future academies.

These 2 academies are located off-campus and are staffed with the necessary PLSD teachers to deliver curriculum and instruction in the core areas of Math, Sciences, Social Studies, and Language Arts. A number of electives related to these specific academies are also available. Just like at the high school, students have the opportunity to take P.E., dual credit, as well as a variety of A.P. courses. Classrooms are also fully integrated, so a geometry student may find him/herself in the same classroom as a Trigonometry student.

Student enrollment at the Health Systems Academy is capped at 80, while the enrollment at the Zoo Academy is currently at 60. While more students are willing to attend, the availability of zoo and hospital staff is limited. Enrolling a number of students that exceeds the availability of zoo and hospital staff would compromise the effectiveness and true spirit of the hospital and zoo learning experience.

If these courses are the main course, externship opportunities are the dessert. These real-life, hands-on experiences are what make the academies truly special. No where else can a student take high school and dual credit courses AND witness a child birth, shadow a geneticist, work along side world renowned animal scientists, or handle exotic animals!

The curriculum and assessments for these academies aligns perfectly with existing high school courses and common summative assessments. Instructional strategies are innovative and focus strongly on challenge-based learning experiences. Like the high schools, professional development opportunities occur monthly. The block scheduling allows teachers to plan together while students participate in externships, clinical rotations, or complete projects.

Qualitative evidence of the impact of the academies is reflected in surveys, student work, as well as positive responses from our partners at the Henry Doorly Zoo and Midlands Community Hospital. Technology and student/teacher creativity play a strong role in assessing student learning. The use of wikis, Facebook, Skype, various multi-media tools, and a low student-to-laptop ratio play a strong role in the assessment of the student AND the academies in general. Quantitative data such as enrollment, attendance, and post-graduation plans as also indicate that students are enjoying the experience.

On-campus academies such as the Education Academy, and the Athletic Training Academy, as well as the Law, Public Safety and Security, (which is located at Metro Community College Sarpy Campus), are also well attended, high interest, hands-on, experienced-based academies for 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade students.

Future plans for additional academies are in the works. PLSD will implement an Associates to Bachelors (A to B) Academy in 2010-11. This academy puts students in a position to earn an Associate's Degree in Science while still in high school, helping them make a smooth transition directly into a 4-year college such as UN-O or UN-L. In 2011-12, we will add a Leadership Academy. This academy will provide students the baseline skills that are necessary for success in ANY career, or transition to college. In 2012-13, we will add a STEM Academy. This academy will serve as a math-and-science-intensive experience geared for students interested in Engineering.

# Southeast Community College-Beatrice/ESU 5 Area School Districts: Career Academy Project

## Timeline

February 2008	Director hired by SCC.
Fall 2009	Academy classes in Health Sciences and Business begin. New academies selected for fall 2010 (Agriculture and Information Technology).
Fall 2010	Academies in Agriculture, Basic Nursing Assistant, and Health Sciences. (Note: Information Technology and Business Academies cancelled due to low enrollment.) New academies selected for fall 2011 (Education and Welding)

## Content Areas

	<u>SCC Classes Offered:</u>
Agriculture	Intro to Agriculture and Horticulture Technologies, Live Animal Selection and Carcass Evaluation, Agribusiness Careers, Crop and Food Science
Business	Intro to Business, Personal Finance, Principles of Accounting, Principles of Management, Principles of Marketing, Intro to Entrepreneurship
Education	Intro to Education, Instructional Technology, Intro to Early Childhood Education, Educational Psychology
Health Sciences	Intro to Health, Medical Terminology I and II, First Aid, Nursing Assistant, Medical Law & Ethics, Communication in Allied Health, Anatomy and Physiology
Information Technology	Computer Fundamentals, Logic and Design, Networking Infrastructure, Java, Data Comm. And Networking, Internet Scripting, Web Page Fundamentals, Visual Basic, Networking Concepts
Welding	Oxy Theory, Oxy Welding & Cutting, GMAW Theory, GMAW Lab I, SMAW Theory, SMAW Lab I

## Student Enrollment

2009-2010	54 students (two academies)
2010-2011	47 students (three academies)

## Schools Served/Partnering Organizations

Beatrice, Bruning-Davenport, Dresher, Diller-Odell, Fairbury, Freeman, Meridian, Southern, Thayer Central, Tri County; Thayer County Hospital; Jefferson County Hospital

## Delivery Mechanisms

Currently all academy classes are taught Face-to-face in a traditional classroom setting.

## Future Plans

Expand the SCC Academy model into all 15-counties served by SCC.

**CURRENT ACADEMIES**

- \* Health Aide
- \* Phlebotomy
- \* Health Information
- \* Emergency Medical Technician
- \* Early Childhood
- \* Teaching
- \* Criminal Justice
- \* Journalism

Western Nebraska Community College currently offers Career Academy classes in face-to-face and online delivery styles. We also have the capability to use distance-learning and blended delivery models. We have 37 students enrolled in our Career Academies this year.

**35** ...number of students earning certifications in the past two years  
**30 Basic Nursing Assts**  
**4 Medication Aides**  
**1 National Phlebotomy Certification**

**SCHOOLS CURRENTLY SERVED**

- \* Scottsbluff
- \* Gering
- \* Chadron
- \* Bayard

**WNCC**

**Scottsbluff:** 1601 East 27th Street  
 Scottsbluff, NE 69361

**Sidney:** 371 College Drive  
 Sidney, NE 69162

**Alliance:** 1750 Sweetwater Ave.  
 Alliance, NE 69301

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**NAMES OF COURSES ALIGNED TO THE NEBRASKA PROGRAMS OF STUDY:**

MicroComputer Apps.	Editing & Design
Adv. MicroComputer Apps.	Intro. to Psychology
Intro. to Infomation Tech.	Educational Psychology
Networking Essentials	Child Growth & Development
Web Design	Into. to Education
Medical Terminology	Expressive Arts
Basic Nursing Asst.	Observation, Assessment & Guidance
C.P.R.	
Medication Aide	Infant/Toddler Development
Intro. to Health Info. Mgmt.	PreSchool Child Development
Health Care Delivery Systems	School Age Child Development
Disease Process 1	Into. to Criminal Justice
Disease Process 2	Courts & the Judicial Process
Health Care Delivery Systems	Juvenile Justice
Legal & Ethical Aspects of Health Info. Mgmt.	Criminal Investigation
Journalism Internship	Intro. to Emergency Management
News Writing & Reporting	Feature Writing

**WE HAVE TWO ADDITIONAL ACADEMIES UNDER DEVELOPMENT:**

- \* Entrepreneurship
- \* Powerline