



**BE FUTURE
READY**



NAF's STEM Imperative

PREPARATION FOR CAREERS IN STEM

Students in the United States today gain unprecedented career opportunities when they pursue education in STEM—science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

According to the U.S. Department of Commerce, the demand for STEM workers grows at the third highest rate of all fields. STEM workers earn as much as 26% more than others and command higher salaries even when they work in non-STEM occupations.

NAF Academies of Information Technology, Engineering, and Health Sciences offer their student population – young women and men from diverse racial, ethnic, and lower socioeconomic backgrounds – a clear entry and a competitive edge as they pursue post-secondary education and STEM careers.

FROM NATIONAL SHORTAGE TO CRITICAL ADVANTAGE

The current shortage of professionals with STEM degrees, combined with the growing diversity of our nation's population, has provided bottom-line incentive to U.S. businesses seeking STEM workers to place a higher premium on gender, racial, and ethnic diversity at every level.

NAF students can fill this need. Together with its business and education partners, NAF is ensuring that the diverse, trained, and knowledgeable pipeline of young people graduating from NAF academies in STEM fields are ready to fill these positions.



Through NAF's proven educational design, NAF academies prepare today's students to become tomorrow's STEM leaders and innovators. We seek additional corporate and philanthropic partners who share our commitment to STEM and support our goals to:

- Increase the number of students enrolled in NAF STEM-themed academies, with emphasis on underrepresented populations and underserved communities;
- Infuse STEM proficiencies into all academy themes and build a STEM-enabled core to our proven educational design;
- Expand work-based learning opportunities, especially paid internships, in STEM fields;
- Implement a NAF college and career readiness certification that validates NAF students' achievements in STEM and prepares them for future NAFTrack Certified Hiring opportunities; and,
- Leverage the expertise of our partners to identify the STEM skills necessary for young people to succeed in the 21st century workforce.

NAF STEM BY THE NUMBERS

- 315 STEM-related NAF academies across 26 states, including DC
- 44,491 students attend NAF Academies of Engineering, Information Technology, or Health Sciences
- 69% Hispanic and African-American
- 69% qualify for free and reduced price lunch
- 96% of seniors graduated in 2014
- 93% of graduates plan to go to college



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