

NAF academy students complete an intentional sequence of work-based learning experiences which prepares them to make informed college and career choices and allows them to acquire necessary college- and career- readiness skills.

Participation in work-based learning has a significant positive impact on all involved. Students may benefit most directly, but schools and business partners also gain through getting involved.

STUDENT BENEFITS TO PARTICIPATION IN WORK-BASED LEARNING

* Make direct connections between classroom learning and real world applications
* Build personal ownership of learning by connecting hands-on experiences to individual career goals
* Develop college- and career- ready (‘soft’) skills
* Develop and practice positive work-related habits and attitudes
* Increase motivation to stay in school, earn a high school diploma, and NAF Track Certification
* Develop and work toward achieving college and career goals during high school
* Improve post-graduation employment opportunities
* Secure part-time employment and financial support for post-secondary education
* Establish professional contacts for future employment, mentoring and networking

EMPLOYER BENEFITS TO PARTICIPATION IN WORK-BASED LEARNING

* Develop new projects and ideas with student assistance
* Participate in the curriculum development process
* Develop a pool of skilled and motivated potential future employees
* Reduce training/recruitment costs
* Improve employee motivation and retention
* Support and improve educational programs
* Increase interest in the company and industry by inspiring the future workforce
* Demonstrate corporate social responsibility
* Provide opportunities for employees to use their professional skills to benefit the community

SCHOOL BENEFITS TO PARTICIPATION IN WORK-BASED LEARNING

* Increased high school completion rates
* Increased post-secondary enrollment rates
* Clear connections of core academic and academy courses to college and career applications
* Increased student motivation to stay in school, earn a high school diploma, and NAF Track Certification
* Enhanced ability to meet the needs of diverse student populations through individualized and applied learning opportunities
* Extensive relationships in the community through business partner and advisory board involvement
* Staff development through partner engagement

