FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**## (NAF Academy(ies) in (District Name)
Earn National “Distinguished” Recognition**

(date, location) – ## ACADEM(IES) in District Name are among 178 career academies recently awarded NAF’s **Katherine Blasik Distinguished** level recognition. This includes academies that have reached this level more than once and new academies joining the ranks for the first time.

This designation is given to a select few who have reached Model level on NAF’s annual assessment, exhibiting strong fidelity to an educational design that prepares students for success in college and careers. Model level is determined by an academy’s score on the assessment, which measures strengths and challenges in implementing NAF’s results driven educational design, followed by a virtual academy visit this year. The visit is conducted by a team of distinguished leaders, outside experts, and NAF staff to verify that the academy is meeting fidelity to an educational design that prepares students for success in college and careers. A subset of these high performing academies meets additional thresholds to reach Katherine Blasik Distinguished level – NAF’s highest level of achievement.

The assessment is designed to help all academies assess their progress and move up on the continuum of NAF’s standards.

NAF Chief Executive Officer, JD Hoye, said, “During a continued time of uncertainty and needing to pivot to do our work differently, we applaud our Katherine Blasik Distinguished and NAF Model academies for all they have done to keep the NAF educational design at the forefront. Congratulations on this important honor and thank you for your commitment to student success.”

“This recognition is a testament to all those who help make our academy a success,” said (academy leader). “Without our students, teachers, business and community partners, we couldn’t achieve this level of success.”

INSERT LIST OF ACADEMIES

ACADEMIES are part of NAF, a national network of education, business, and community leaders who work together to ensure that high school students are college, career, and future ready.

**About NAF**

NAF is a national network of education, business, and community leaders who work together to ensure that high school students are college, career, and future ready.

NAF works with high need communities to transform the high school experience through an educational design that includes industry-specific curricula, work-based learning experiences, and relationships with business professionals, culminating in a paid internship. NAF academies fit within and enhance school systems, allowing NAF to become an integral part of a plan for higher achievement at a low cost. NAF academies focus on one of five career themes: finance, hospitality & tourism, information technology, engineering, and health sciences. During the 2020-21 school year, over 117,000 students attended 619 NAF academies across 34 states, plus DC, Puerto Rico, and the US Virgin Islands. In 2020, NAF academies reported 99% of seniors graduated with 87% of graduates planning to go to college. For more information, please visit: <http://naf.org/>