



**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) fields.

Data from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) support that assertion. Employment in occupations related to STEM—science, technology, engineering, and mathematics—is projected to increase by 8% between 2019 and 2029. That's a growth of about 800,000 new jobs.

NAF Academies of Information Technology, Engineering, and Health Sciences offer their students – young women and men from diverse racial, ethnic, and lower socioeconomic backgrounds – 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 future leaders graduating from NAF academies in STEM fields are ready to fill these positions.



Through our 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

- 330 STEM-related NAF academies across 35 states, including DC, Puerto Rico, and the US Virgin Islands
- 71,191 students attend NAF Academies of Engineering, Information Technology, Health Sciences, Finance, or Other
- 74% Hispanic/Latino and Black/African American
- 44% female
- 73% low-income (based on eligibility for FRPL)
- 99% of seniors graduated in 2021



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