FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March/April ##, 2023

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 **NAF Academy(ies) in (District Name) Reach(es) Model Level**

(date, location) – NAF Academy(ies) in district name are among a select group who have reached NAF’s model level for 2023. These academies are being spotlighted for their excellent efforts in delivering high-quality educational experiences for high school students across the nation.

Model level is determined by an academy’s score on the assessment, which measures strengths and challenges in implementing NAF’s results driven design, followed by a virtual academy visit this year to verify that the academy is meeting fidelity to a 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.

In the classroom, NAF goes beyond what traditional career and technical education programs offer with experiential learning activities that complement career-focused curricula. Outside the classroom, students are equipped with the future-ready skills and industry-specific learnings to be successful in any pathway they choose.

NAF Chief Executive Officer, Lisa Dughi, said, “Congratulations to all our Katherine Blasik Distinguished and NAF Model academies and a special welcome to our academies joining the roster for the first time! Your hard work, strong commitment, and proven contributions to student success are an outstanding example to the rest of the NAF network. We applaud you and thank you for everything that you do both today and to build a better future.”

INSERT LIST OF ACADEMIES

“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.”

ACADEMIES are part of NAF, a national education non-profit, which supports high school students’ efforts to be future ready.

**About NAF**

NAF is a national education non-profit that brings schools and businesses together to better prepare students of all backgrounds. Since 1980, NAF has led a movement for immersive, career-focused teaching and work-based learning. With the support of NAF community-based advisory boards, schools connect with the workforce to fuel shared progress—from creating culturally responsive curriculum and paid internship opportunities, to fostering innovation and building future-ready businesses. NAF helps students explore career options, create a plan for the future, and take part in hands-on, work-based learning unlike anything traditional public education systems can offer. NAF puts students on a path to achieving their full potential.

NAF has grown from one NAF Academy of Finance in New York City to hundreds of academies across the country focusing on growing industries including finance, hospitality & tourism, information technology, engineering, and health sciences; and support programs of study that are aligned with the National Career Clusters Framework. During the 2022-23 school year, over 112,000 students attended over 600 NAF academies across 35 states and territories. In 2022, NAF academies reported 99% of seniors graduated with 88% of graduates planning to go to college. [www.naf.org](http://www.naf.org)