



THE ACADEMIES
OF LOUISVILLE



A Pathway To the Real World





Shon Adams



- U.S. Army National Guard Colonel (retired)
- Successful career in corporate human resources
- Adjunct Instructor on Leadership for JCTC
- B.S. in Police Administration; M.S. in Military Strategic Studies
- Certifications include SHRM-CP, Associate Certified Coach (ICF), Lean Six Sigma Yellow Belt, a Maxwell Certified Leader, and a DISC Certified Behavioral Analyst.

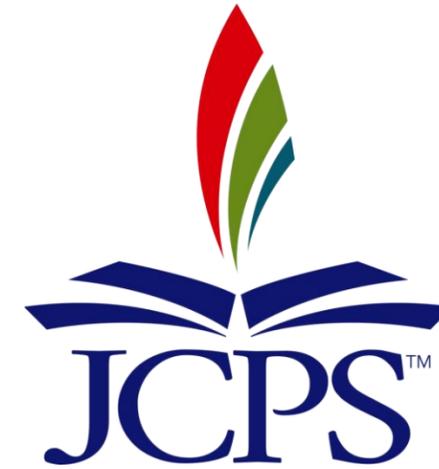
ACADEMIES OF LOUISVILLE ALLIANCE: Who are we?



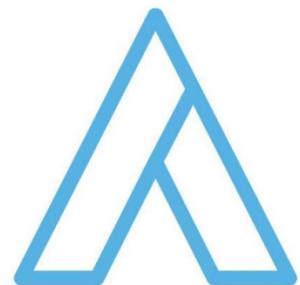
KENTUCKIANA WORKS

Greater Louisville's
Workforce Board

Partners for 8+ years



THE ACADEMIES
OF LOUISVILLE



THE ACADEMIES
OF LOUISVILLE
ALLIANCE

Team of 7: Established in June 2024

- 1 Director
- 1 Full Time Recruiter @ Greater Louisville Inc.
- 3 Business Partnership Coordinators
- 2 Communications Professionals



THE ACADEMIES OF LOUISVILLE

The Academies help students connect what they learn in the classroom to real-world careers, giving them the skills and experience they need for college and the workforce.



29 Schools Serving HS Students in 4 Structures!

Magnet = theme-based, application only, districtwide access (*Brown, Butler, Central, Manual & Male*)

Choice = specialized learning environment, application only (*Pathfinder, Liberty, Phoenix, TAPP, Grace James, and DuBois*)

Alternative = focus on behavior adjustment, district directed (*Breck Metro & Minor Daniels Academy*)

Academies of Louisville = reside schools with CTE pathways, in-network transfers available





ACADEMIES OF LOUISVILLE

15

ACADEMIES OF LOUISVILLE
HIGH SCHOOLS





ACADEMIES OF LOUISVILLE

In year 8 of implementation:

- ❑ Academies launched in 2017- 2018. The graduating class of 2021 was the first class to have gone through all four years of the Academies model.
- ❑ Approximately **20,000 students in 56 academies** (including Freshman Academy) within 15 JCPS High Schools (67% of JCPS HS Students)
 - ❑ **WHS Enrollment:** 911, 71% minority and 65% Free/Reduced Lunch
- ❑ **200+ unique companies** have signed on to serve as business partners supporting **71 unique career pathways**
- ❑ Three main partners driving the work: **JCPS, KentuckianaWorks, and Greater Louisville Inc.**

What is the Academy model?

Career-themed small learning communities that connect classroom learning to the real-world.



Freshman Academy

Strong transition program to ensure all 9th graders explore careers and transition successfully to high school!



Upperclassmen Academies

Based around a 4 course career pathway that includes experiential learning opportunities such as guest speakers, industry tours, job shadows and leads to an industry certification or college credit.



Interdisciplinary

Career Pathway Teachers and Core Content Teachers build relevance and connections through lessons that connect learning including Project-Based Learning and Authentic Challenges



Business Partnerships

Strong engagement with business partners to provide experiential learning opportunities and connect students to their community



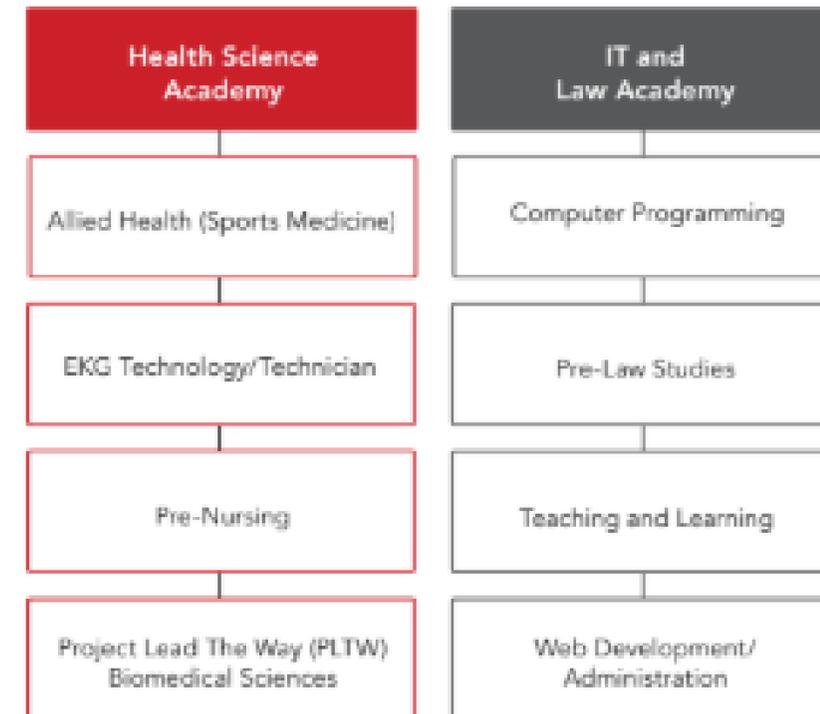
THE ACADEMIES
OF LOUISVILLE
WAGGENER HIGH SCHOOL

Academies and Pathways

Grade 9

Freshman Academy

Grades 10–12





ACADEMIES OF LOUISVILLE: WHS

Impact: Postsecondary Readiness @ WHS

30%

Waggener's PSR Rate
in 2018



79%

Waggener's PSR Rate in
2024



Way to Go, Waggener!



National Career Academy
Coalition (NCAC) Model Status
Recognition

Health Science Academy

IT & Law Academy

Freshman Academy

WITH DISTINCTION



The College Now Program

- **Waggener's College Now Program offers WHS students:**
 - the opportunity to earn more than 30 college credit hours with reduced tuition through partnerships with several Kentucky universities including UL, UK, WKU, Campbellsville University, and JCTC
 - the ability to start as early as their freshman year and ultimately start college as a sophomore!
- **College Now is aligned with our pathways in that dual credit is offered in each of our 8 career pathway courses at Waggener.**

What is an Academies Business Partner?



One Year Commitment

Works with the school for at least one year



Assigns Primary Contact

Identifies a primary partner contact who will be the first point of contact for the school's Academy Coach



Planning Sessions

Participates in planning sessions with the school to determine how best to work together; produce Action Plan



Advisory Council

Serves on the school's Academy Advisory Council

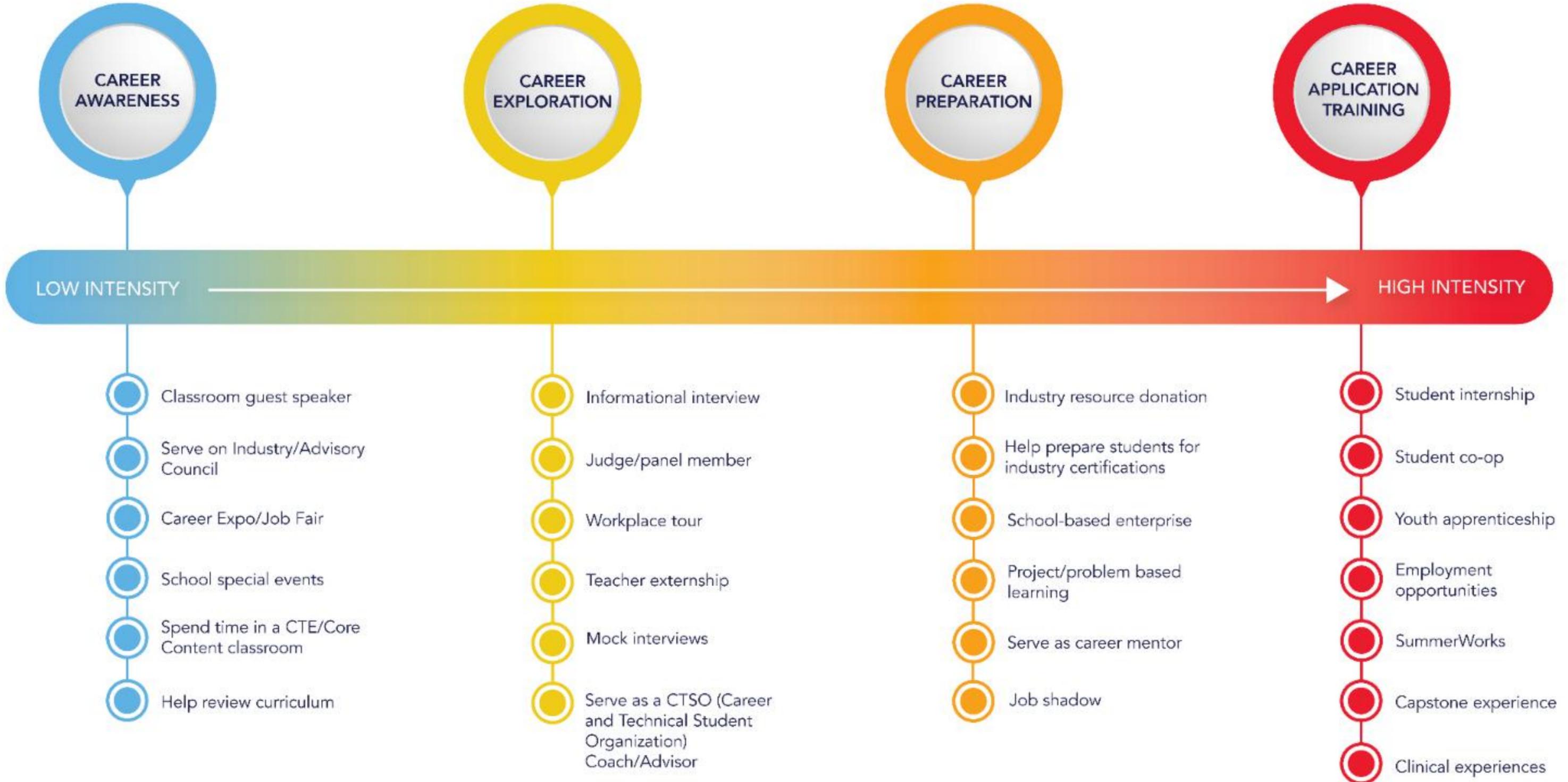


Work-Based Activities

Supports the goals of the Academy in at least two work-based activities from the Engagement Menu



BUSINESS PARTNER ENGAGEMENT MENU



Business Partnerships

February 2025: **200+**
Business Partners supporting 15
JCPS High Schools!



January 2018: **13**
Signed Business
Partners



The Academies of Louisville
Jefferson County Public Schools



GE APPLIANCES
a Haier company

Humana®



Lantech®

NORTON
HEALTHCARE



Governance Structure



JEFFERSON COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Develops, implements, and monitors all aspects of the Academies

Student Ambassador Leadership Team

30 student ambassadors; focus on providing student voice in decisions for the development of the model

JCPS Vision Team

30 school-based staff members; focus on Academies model development

School-Level Advisory Boards

Academy partners, teachers, parents, and students; focus on XXX



KENTUCKIANAWORKS

Convening organization, provides staff and leadership

Designated as the convening body; provides staff leadership and support for all Academies partners and activities



Team of business partner-facing and communications staff who work to strengthen existing relationships and foster community connection



THE ACADEMIES OF LOUISVILLE



GREATER LOUISVILLE INC.

Business Partner Recruitment and Onboarding

Recruits business partners and connects them to the schools; assists in partner development for all academies and monitors and celebrates partner outcomes



GUIDING TEAM

Cultivates community-wide ownership

Primary advocates; mobilizes the community; provides strategic advice and oversight; sets goals for community engagement

Executive Committee

Subcommittees: Business Partnerships, Fundraising, Student Engagement, Communications



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BRIDGING CLASSROOM & CAREER

THE ACADEMIES OF LOUISVILLE ALLIANCE

The Academies of Louisville Alliance
Bridging education and industry to empower students and build a skilled workforce for Louisville's future.
Education · Louisville, KY · 35 followers · 2-10 employees



Academies of Louisville Facebook



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