

School Partnerships

ARTICULATION

POST SECONDARY ENROLLMENT OPTIONS

CAREER READINESS COUNCIL

CAREER LINK AND CAREER LINK ACADEMIES



SCHOOL PARTNERSHIPS

NIACC is currently developing cooperative programs with high schools in our service area to identify career program prerequisites, to reward students for previous learning experiences, to provide a challenging educational experience for each student, and to ensure a smoother transition for students into postsecondary degree programs.

Articulation

Articulation is a process whereby students can receive tuition-free college credits toward graduation for successfully completing certain high school career and technical courses identified to have college-level material. NIACC faculty members meet with high school teachers to carefully compare their course offerings and identify areas of content overlap. The result is a savings of time and financial resources for the student interested in a time-shortened degree or increased competence and employment potential for the student interested in an advanced skills degree. Contact your counselor to obtain a list of high school courses that articulate into NIACC Career programs.

Post Secondary Enrollment Options (PSEO)

The Post Secondary Enrollment Options Act provides high school juniors and seniors with the opportunity to take college courses prior to high school graduation. The Act has a dual purpose: 1) to provide a constant challenge for students by promoting rigorous educational pursuits; and 2) to provide a wider variety of options for students. Students earn high school and college credit for courses taken. Post secondary credits earned are transferable to other colleges and universities depending on degree requirements at that institution. Contact your high school counselor for further information on Post Secondary Enrollment Options.

Career Readiness Council

The Career Readiness Council—a group comprised of representatives from high schools, Workforce Development, business and industry, labor, the Area Education Agency, the Transition Advisory board, and NIACC—has established career education goals for Area 267 - Clear Lake Region:

- Develop and enhance shared programs.
- Support local districts in their comprehensive school improvement goals.
- Strengthen career counseling and career education programs.
- Foster business, industry, and professional connections for our students, teachers, and employers.
- Meet increased needs associated with diversity and globalization.

As a member of the Career Readiness Council, NIACC collaborates with the representatives to implement these broad-based career education goals.

Career Link Programs and Classes

Career Link programs and classes are educational partnerships between high schools and NIACC. Career Link focuses on providing students with skills needed to perform in today's workforce. A major component is an applied (hands-on) curriculum that recognizes the widely varying learning styles of students. It involves the creation of a carefully designed sequence of high school and college courses leading to an associate degree. Student career exploration and planning, along with a parental community awareness of workforce needs and employment opportunities, are vital components of a Career Link program.

Career Link programs include:

- Accounting and General Business
- Agriculture
- Automotive Service Technology
- Building Trades
- Climate Control (HVAC) Technology
- Graphic Media Design
- Entrepreneurship
- Health Careers
- Hospitality and Food Service Management
- Industrial Technology
- Information Technology
- Marketing and Sales
- Professional Administration Services
- Sport Management
- Teacher Education
- Tool & Die Technology
- Welding

In addition to the on-campus programs, Career Link Academies are located across North Iowa. Students from surrounding high schools travel to the Career Link Academy where they complete up to one year of college credit during their senior year.

NIACC has established Career Link Academies at the following sites:

Automotive Service Technology - NIACC Main Campus

Health Careers - West Hancock High School and Hancock County Memorial Hospital; Belmont-Klemme High School and Belmont Medical Center; Hampton-Dumont High School and ABCM Care Center.

Information Technology - Mason City High School, Garner-Hayfield High School

Business and Information Technology - Charles City High School, Hampton-Dumont High School

Industrial Technology - Rockwell

Many school districts offer NIACC classes taught at the high school during the regular school day. High school instructors, who meet NIACC teaching qualifications, teach the courses. NIACC textbooks and course outlines are utilized. The result is a savings of time and resources for the student.

For information about the Career Link programs and classes available at your high school, contact your high school counselor or contact the NIACC School Partnership Department at (641) 422-4175 or 1-888-GO NIACC, Ext. 4175. Website: www.niacc.edu/careerlink.