



Frequently Asked Questions

February, 2018

Firestone CLC will launch three College & Career Academies in September, 2019:

Academy of Design Pathways: Visual Art & Design Fashion & Product Design Entrepreneurship & Architecture	Academy of Advanced Technology and Comprehensive Engineering Pathways: Mechatronics Aerospace and Digital Science	Academy of Performing Arts Pathways: Vocal Instrumental Dance Theater and Film
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On February 21, 2018, the district announced a groundbreaking partnership with Kent State University as a Named Integrated Partner with Firestone CLC for each of their three academies.

<p>What does it mean to be a Named Integrated Partner?</p>	<p>Every academy across the district will have numerous business and community partners. For example, North High School--- our first to transform into a College & Career Academy format--- has 56 business and community partners providing experiential learning opportunities. When a business or community partner wants to go beyond a standard partnership and commit extensive time, talent, and resources to provide an even broader array of workplace learning opportunities and innovative learning experiences, it can be considered for Akron Public Schools top tier partnership as a Named Integrated Partner.</p>
<p>How does a business or community partner gain approval to be a Named Integrated Partner?</p>	<p>Akron Public Schools (APS) school-based and central office staff work collaboratively with our key CCAA partners (i.e., United Way of Summit County, ConxusNEO, GAR Foundation, Summit Education Initiative, the Greater Akron Chamber of Commerce) to identify business and community partners for all of our academies. Nearly every month for the next year, we anticipate announcing new Named Integrated Partners for other academies across the district. Each named partner must be approved by the Akron School Board. The board votes final approval if it deems the partner as an appropriate fit for the academy and has demonstrated an ability to meet the requirements to be a Named Integrated Partner. Our district's first named academy was Akron Children's Hospital Academy of Health and Human Services at North High School. Kent State University is our second Named Integrated Partner.</p>
<p>What type of experiences will Kent State University provide students in the academies at Firestone CLC?</p>	<p>Kent State University will create progressive student experiential learning opportunities both on the college campus as well as in places of business. Students will be able to take industry field trips, job shadow professionals in their career field or shadow Kent State students to get an idea of university life. They will also have the opportunity to participate in internships, summer enrichment programs, problem based learning units and innovative design projects that will extend learning beyond the classroom.</p>

<p>How does the Kent State University partnership with Firestone Community Learning Center enhance my child's education?</p>	<p>What will be taught in the academic classes will still be based on the Ohio state standards specific to the content area. Teachers in an academy, with support from Kent State University staff, will then use the resources and tools available to them to bring the standards-based lessons to life, through the career-themed lens. For example, students in the dance pathway may choreograph a dance with KSU faculty and students; aerospace engineering students may work on a problem-based learning unit at the Kent State University airport; architecture students may co-design solutions for parking problems in downtown Akron with business partners of KSU. Faculty at Firestone will identify the types of authentic learning opportunities they would like to offer their students and will collaboratively work with faculty and staff at Kent State University and within businesses to bring them to life. The opportunities will be rooted in the standards they are responsible to teach; they require students to think critically and creatively to design authentic solutions to the problem posed.</p>
<p>Will advanced classes, such as Advanced Placement (AP), International Baccalaureate (IB), College Credit Plus (CCP) Honors classes, be offered at Firestone CLC?</p>	<p>Yes, all advanced classes will be offered to students in each academy at Firestone CLC. In fact, the goal will be to increase the number of students being able to access advanced courses by increasing the relevance and rigor in instructional practices.</p>
<p>How will the Freshman Academy be enhanced by the influence from Kent State University?</p>	<p>The focus for students in the Freshman Academy will be to transition successfully to high school. Understanding rigorous expectations, developing strong study skills and getting involved in high school will be the initial priority.</p> <p>Secondly, students in the Freshman Academy will begin to explore career options and aspirations. Kent State University will support students in the Freshman Academy by providing experiences that deepen their career exploration including participation in a career fair and offering a college visit.</p>
<p>Will other businesses and community partners be able to support the academies at Firestone?</p>	<p>Kent State University has committed to a deep and meaningful partnership with Firestone CLC, but there will be other businesses and community partners who can get involved in the College & Career Academies at Firestone. Kent State University is going to assist Firestone in securing these additional business partners. There are almost 1200 students who have unique passions and interests that require many partnerships to be forged over the next few years. Firestone CLC looks forward to working with small, medium and large companies or organizations that have time and talent to share with teachers and students so that we produce the Akron Public Schools graduate ready to make a difference in the world.</p>

The new named Academies will be represented with the following logos:



College & Career Academies of Akron Overview:

College & Career Academies of Akron (CCAA) is transforming the traditional high school model to prepare all students for college, careers and life. We do this by linking academic subjects to college and career themes. Students and teachers use experiential learning to make lessons come alive. Different pathways that are designed and supported by community partners will introduce our students to a variety of college and career options.

College & Career Academies Mission Statement:

College & Career Academies of Akron gives all students confidence in their future by building a sense of belonging, through common interests and shared experiences in a supportive community that offers real-world, hands-on learning, in and out of the classroom.

Timeline:

2018-2019 All freshmen enter Freshman Academy at the school of their choice
2019-2020 All high school students enroll in the Academy and Pathway of their choice.

