

Career Academies & Regional Centers



COMMUNITY COLLEGES &
WORKFORCE PREPARATION

Career Academy

A program structure that bridges high school and Community College programs.

Career academies are career-oriented programs of study that link secondary career and technical education (CTE) to a postsecondary education program through concurrent enrollment coursework.

The career academy has three key elements:

1. Concurrent enrollment coursework where students earn both high school and college credit upon successful completion of community college coursework.
2. A sequence of coursework with a career theme which provides an appropriate foundation for entrance into a postsecondary program.
3. Strong partnerships between employers, school districts, higher education institutions and the community.

Note: A school districts CTE program must meet specific requirements outlined in IAC 281-46.11 to be designated as an official career academy program. A school district may work with a community college to offer the entire career academy program.

Delivery Location of a Career Academy

- Delivered at a Regional Center location
- Delivered at a High School (may be shared with other districts)
- Delivered at a Community College (not designated as a Regional Center)

Regional Center

A regional center is a facility or “place” for the delivery of career and technical education (CTE) programming.

The purpose of a regional center is to provide for increased and equitable access to a variety of high-quality CTE program opportunities for all high school students across the state of Iowa, regardless of which school district they reside.

Maximizing the impact of collaboration by participating stakeholders and regional planning, regional centers have the ability to deliver high-quality advanced CTE coursework by internalizing the high capital costs to cohesively offer structured programming with access to state-of-the-art equipment not otherwise available through individual school districts.

Regional Centers must:

- Provide access to at least four career academy programs.
- Serve either a combined minimum of 120 students from at least two school districts or a minimum of four school districts with no student minimum.

A Regional Center may be established by and offered through a Community College or a School District.

Funding Career Academies and/or Regional Centers

- State Support
- Perkins Support
- Supplementary Weighting for School Districts
- Partnerships/In-kind Contributions/Donations
- Career Academy Incentive Fund Grant – up to \$1 million based on priority level

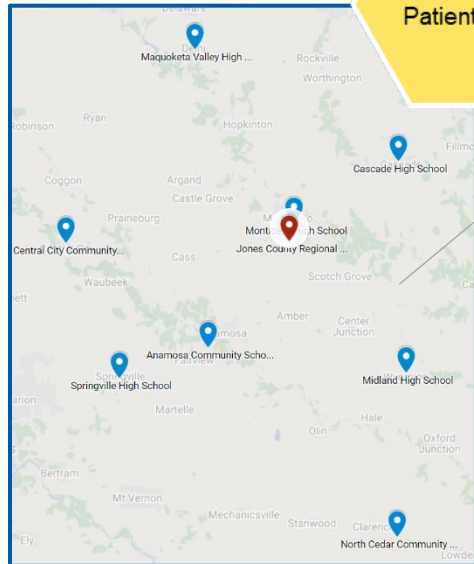
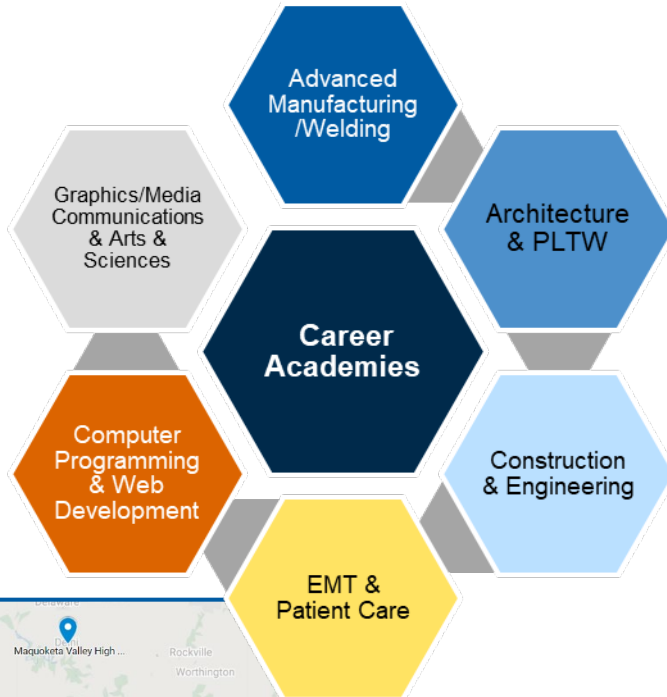
Questions? Contact Jennifer Rathje at jennifer.rathje@iowa.gov.

Regional Centers

The Jones County Regional Center and Ames Hunziker Center Career Academy are two of the state's 19 currently established Regional Center locations delivering high-quality CTE Career Academy programs.

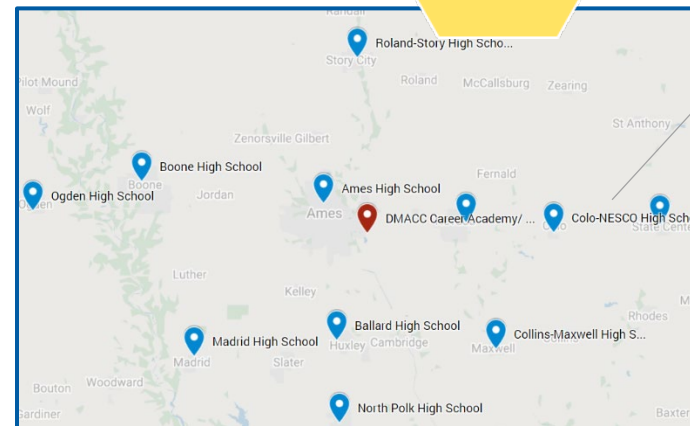
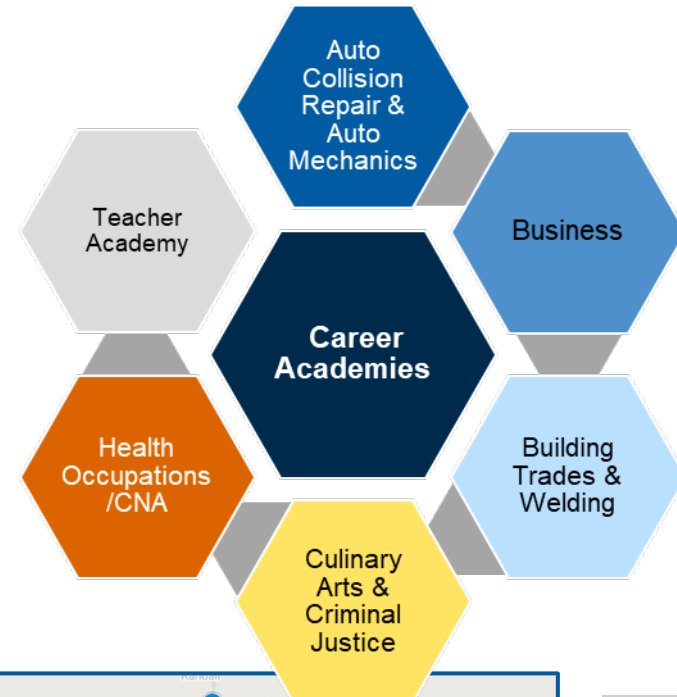


Kirkwood Community College Jones County Regional Center



8 High School Partnerships
289 Students
*2020 Condition of CTE Report

Des Moines Area Community College Ames Hunziker Center Career Academy



13 High School Partnerships
255 Students
*2020 Condition of CTE

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