

# "Going Further" Together



# The Ford NGL Framework

Ford NGL Communities around the *world* will achieve the following long-term outcomes:



Young people prepared for college, careers, lifelong learning, and leadership



Community prosperity shared by all



Strengthened talent pipeline



Educational equity and justice for all



Capacity to contribute and go further

Ford NGL will achieve the following organizational outcomes:



Increased number of communities achieving the above five outcomes



Increased capacity of communities to sustain and improve

Ford NGL mobilizes educators, employers, and community leaders to prepare a new generation of young people who will graduate from high school—ready for college, careers, and life—prepared to compete successfully in the 21st century economy.

Ford NGL blends the expertise of stakeholders within and across communities. Three distinct yet interconnected strands comprise the Ford NGL framework, which enables whole communities to design and carry out a long-term plan for revitalizing education.

## TEACHING & LEARNING

Creating meaningful learning experiences that enable students to learn and apply academic, 21st century, and technical knowledge and skills to real-world challenges and that equip them for success in college, careers, and life



## TRANSFORMING THE SECONDARY SCHOOL EXPERIENCE

Creating and maintaining the career and interest-themed academies and the collaborative culture, structure, and practices necessary to transform teaching and learning and to capitalize on community engagement



## TRANSFORMING BUSINESS & CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

Engaging employers, educators, and community leaders in building and sustaining transformed secondary schools that promote community growth and prosperity by preparing students for future work and citizenship

To learn more about the transformational movement, visit [www.fordngl.com](http://www.fordngl.com).

# A Message from Cheryl Carrier

Executive Director, Ford NGL

Sequoia trees are remarkable—a true force of nature. Although their roots are not deep, they survive for thousands of years by interlocking their roots with the other sequoia trees in their grove. This allows them to hold one another up, creating collective strength, stability, and sustainability.

For Ford NGL, 2015 was characterized by a tremendous commitment to helping one another. Despite often being separated by hundreds or even thousands of miles, Ford NGL communities are dedicated to collaborating across time zones and building their own capacity—and that of the Ford NGL Network as a whole—by lending virtual or in-person support, sharing successful practices and resources, and collaborating on new strategies to achieve common goals. There are countless stories of our communities supporting each other. Like a grove of sequoia trees, Ford NGL is more than just the sum of its parts. The communities and people involved make the Network powerful. It's the collective knowledge and expertise that drive us to innovate, to

push ourselves, and to push one another to “Go Further” for our students and our communities.

As a result of their hard work and commitment to strengthening and sustaining the Ford NGL Network, Pinellas and Rockford were designated as Model Communities this year. In this role, they will join Nashville in promoting the Ford NGL Essential Practices and inspiring other communities through innovative practices. Ford NGL also welcomed four new communities to the family, and we cannot wait to see how they grow.

I want to thank the Ford NGL communities for their leadership, their commitment to their students, and for helping pave the way and give confidence and assistance to other communities who want to embark on this journey to better prepare their students for life, college, and career.

*Cheryl Carrier*



# A Message from Jim Vella

President, Ford Motor Company Fund and Community Services

It's no secret that a good education is an essential first step toward a successful career and improved quality of life. And like the students who learn and adapt as they grow, educators, businesses and communities must also continue to innovate and evolve. The next generation of leaders will require different skills, and so will the demanding world they inherit.

Ford Next Generation Learning (NGL)—a signature program of Ford Motor Company Fund, the philanthropic arm of Ford Motor Company—provides a glimpse into what innovation in education looks like in the future.

Ford Motor Company understands that its continued success depends on our educational system producing the right talent, including young professionals skilled in the STEM fields of science, technology, engineering and math. In order to attract students to STEM, we know that we must work in partnership with educators and local communities to create innovative approaches to learning that spark student interest and imagination. Ford NGL is an important way that Ford makes these critical connections.

The proven approach of Ford NGL makes learning more relevant and engaging by connecting students with professionals currently working in their chosen field. Imagine the lessons to be learned working side-by-side with an engineer or someone in the health care field, gaining valuable insights into

day-to-day challenges, understanding the essential skills and seeing for themselves what success looks like up close. It's the kind of thinking that harkens back to the days of Henry Ford, when he founded schools linking classroom learning to the skills a student might later use in the workplace.

The goals of Ford NGL and the community partnerships it helps to inspire are higher graduation rates, better skill development and an environment that nourishes a love of learning. Ford NGL research shows that community ownership and accountability can be just as important to educating our children as good study habits and hard work. When everyone is involved and dedicated to sharing the responsibility for education, the entire community benefits from the prosperity that comes with a highly-skilled workforce.

Ford NGL is transforming education by opening new roads to success for future generations, and creating better opportunities for the community leaders of tomorrow.





## Everyone knows how passionate students are about schoolwork.

I get jittery and anxious as I drive home, knowing how much fun is in store for me: American history passages to read, English composition worksheets to fill out—wow! I can't wait to get home and sit at a table for hours! When test day comes, it's like Christmas in September; everybody is in the jolly testing spirit! Sound familiar? It shouldn't. No student I have ever met has been excited about schoolwork, and they have especially NOT been excited about testing.

Traditional learning is accepted by most without question but does not work for a majority of students who struggle to see the connection between education and real life. This may be a reason why one of every four students in the United States will not graduate from high school. As our world changes, our education should be changing with it. The world's population has more than doubled since 1970, and our seemingly shrinking world is a hotbox of innovation and competition. What is holding the millennials back? The way we learn.

**For the two years that I have been in the program, school has been—dare I say it—\*FUN\*.**

Ford Next Generation Learning aims to innovate technology education to match our changing world. From the first day we are introduced to the program, we are put into teams to work on a year-long project. Throughout the year, we alternate between regular classwork and the project. We must apply the knowledge from our math, science, and engineering classes for our projects to be successful. My sophomore year was spent tearing down and analyzing a refrigerator donated by GE. Embracing my inner dork, I could chant off the refrigeration cycle and all its components like a nerd-bot stuck in the "ON" position. For the two years that I have been in the program, school has been—dare I say it—\*FUN\*.

**This program promotes education that sparks curiosity, action, and a true connection to education.**

Constantly being in a group to work on the project allowed me to develop close friendships with my classmates. This constant social interaction helped us develop our ability to work through conflict and create rational solutions. Multiple trips to Ford manufacturing centers, DOW chemical plants, and other trips added depth to the program, as we were exposed to potential career choices. Each trip (starting as a sweet excuse to get out of class!) ended with all of us learning about opportunities for our futures. I gained insight into the realities of a career in engineering, now a real career option, not just an abstract concept in a Dilbert™ comic strip.

This program promotes education that sparks curiosity rather than strictly learning by rote, action rather than a desk-potato gallery, and a true connection to education and the real world instead of just preaching as teaching. Passion for change is the greatest ability our generation has to make a difference, and the Ford NGL program equips us with the skills necessary to make that change.

**Alex Bebe**  
Academy Student  
Louisville, Kentucky

## Destination Designation

### Being designated as a Ford NGL community is both a celebration and a call to action.

Designation is the culminating step in the development of a community plan to transform high schools, but now the second leg of the journey begins: the plan must be implemented. Implementation requires tapping on the shoulders of other community members, sharing the plan, and bringing them to the table as both supporters and collaborators. This united approach to transformation sends a powerful message to the community about the work being done, ensures sustainability in the plan, and provides a foundation for that community's story. It's these stories that enrich the collective experience of our network and strengthen the bonds between Ford NGL communities.

### 1/15 Independence, MO designated as a Ford NGL Community

"We now have a plan in place to take all of our students into the future. The businesses we are partnering with are helping to create their ideal employees, and our students will be ready to step into that role. We are excited to offer our students and staff this opportunity and are proud to take our place in the Ford Next Generation Learning community."  
-Dale Herl, Independence Superintendent

### 3/27 Gordon County, GA designated as a Ford NGL Community

"Throughout this process, we have had the opportunity as a cohesive, inclusive group of stakeholders, to take a candid look at our successes and areas for improvement. Throughout this process, we have strengthened partnerships and mapped out a plan for continued improvement and sustainability of success for our entire district, pre-K to 12th grade."  
-Susan Remillard, Gordon County Schools Superintendent

### 3/30 Floyd County, GA designated as a Ford NGL Community

The Floyd County College and Career Academy has fantastic partnerships with Georgia Power, F&P Georgia, Floyd Medical Center, Georgia Northwestern Technical College, Georgia Highlands College, and the Greater Rome Chamber of Commerce. "These organizations have been invaluable to us in providing expertise to revise curriculum, joint enrollment opportunities, and giving students experience in career fields. Representatives of these organizations give of their time to help us strategically plan and provide the training and programs that benefit our students and the community."  
-Eric Waters, CEO of the College and Career Academy

### 3/31 Golden Isles, GA designated as a Ford NGL Community

"Our community values excellence in education and the positive impact that excellence provides, regardless of our different roles, experiences, and backgrounds. Whether it is as teachers in the classroom, administrators in the schools, business leaders in the workplace, volunteers in community organizations, or parents and family members of students, we are all committed to providing our students with an environment in which they can learn, grow, and thrive."  
-M.H. "Woody" Woodside, President of the Brunswick-Golden Isles Chamber of Commerce

### Annual Ford NGL Florida Gathering (July 27) (Ponte Vedra Beach, FL)



This year marked the 5th Annual Ford NGL Florida Gathering, an event that provides opportunities for co-learning and collaboration between community stakeholders in Florida in order to strengthen community networks and sustain a statewide network built on Ford NGL's framework and strategies for student success. Participants included district leaders, academy leaders, employer partners, and state partners from Clay, Volusia, Pinellas, Lee, Polk, and St. Johns Counties. We also had a few special guests in attendance, including Chancellor Rod Duckworth from the Department of Education, Dr. Rod Lewis from CareerSource, Melissa Dennard from CareerSource, and guests from Pasco County and Martin County.

### Ford NGL Leadership Council Meetings (February 17-18 - Tampa, FL) and (June 23-24 - Dearborn, MI)



At Ford NGL, the Leadership Council is our extended family. Representatives from across the Ford NGL Network came together in February to observe wall-to-wall career academies in Pinellas County and discuss stakeholder responsibility and community outcomes. In June, the LC gathered in Dearborn, MI, to build Ford NGL's internal capacity for continuous improvement, collaborate on the 2016-2018 Tactical Plan, and experience the Holistic Design Process. These meetings are an opportunity to build, deepen, and strengthen relationships across the Network and provide a chance for our family to solve common challenges together.

### Superintendents' Council Meeting (June 24-25) (Dearborn, MI)

Leading the change process in any school district requires the support and vision of the Superintendent. With this in mind, Superintendents from each Ford NGL Community were invited to come together in June as colleagues in a professional learning community to share lessons learned, successful career academy implementation strategies, best practices for community engagement, emerging questions, and challenges, as well as strategies for building capacity and advocacy at the local, state, and national levels. The Superintendents Council is more than a collaborative gathering—it is a chance for our district leaders to become a part of the Ford NGL family.



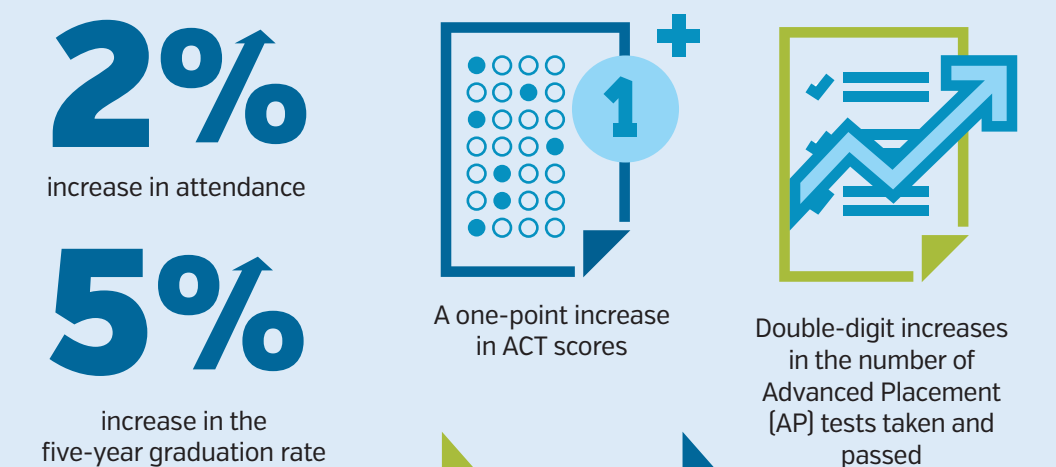
### Arne Duncan Visits Louisville, KY (September 17, 2015)

Arne Duncan, the United States Secretary of Education, visited Jefferson High School as part of his tour. The school has gained notoriety as an effective model for bridging the gap between high school, college, and employment for students. Duncan explained, "It's amazing what they are doing there. It's a school with a real career focus. They are fantastic community partners. And what the students articulated so clearly is just how excited they are to go to school because they know why they are going there." Impressed by the technology training, job-shadow opportunities, and co-op programs at Jefferson, Duncan and his team commented they hope to recreate these elements in schools across the country.



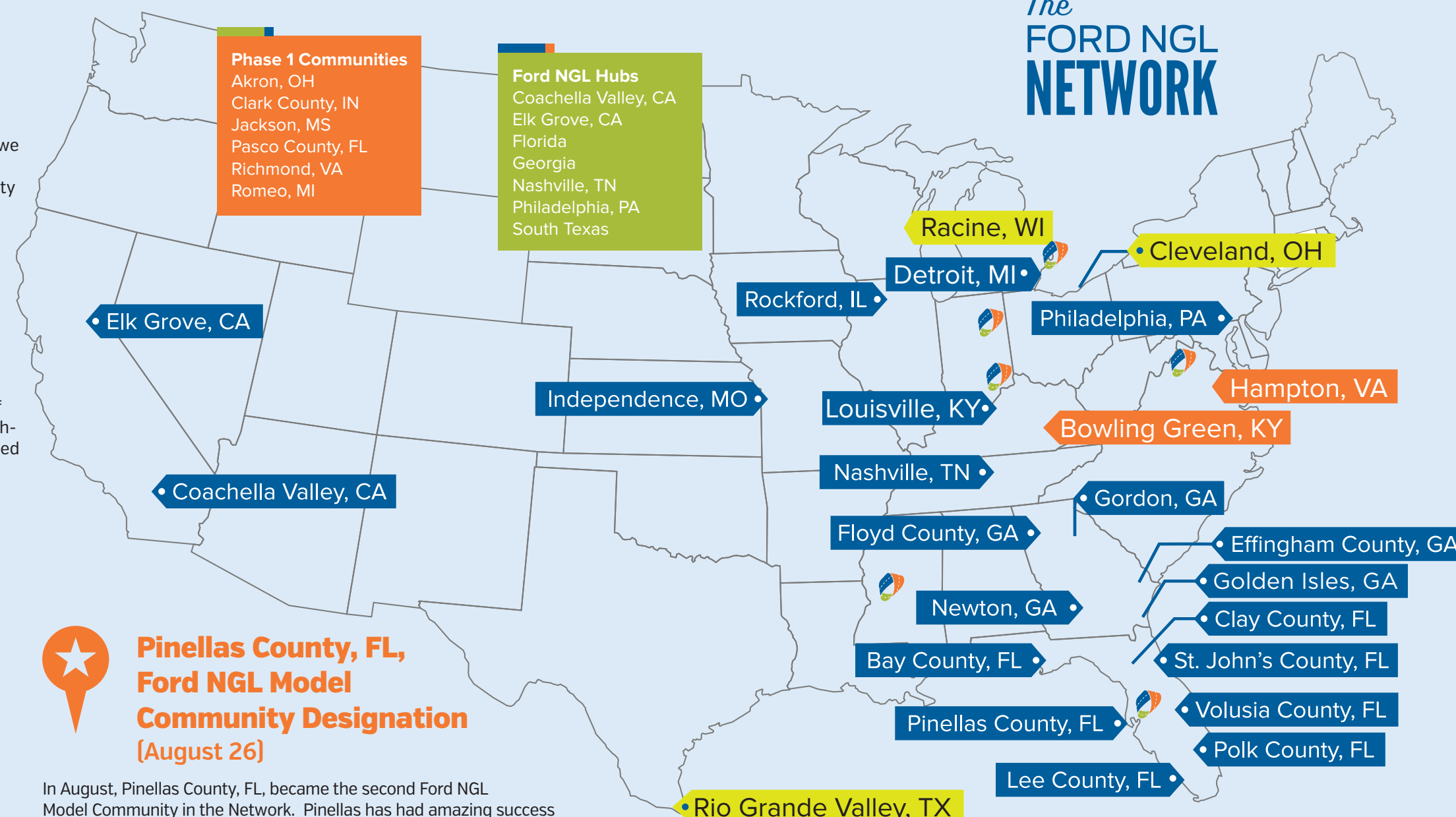
### 10/20 Rockford, IL, Ford NGL Model Community Designation (October 20)

In October, Rockford joined Nashville and Pinellas as Model Communities. Since implementing the career academy model, Rockford Public Schools has seen:



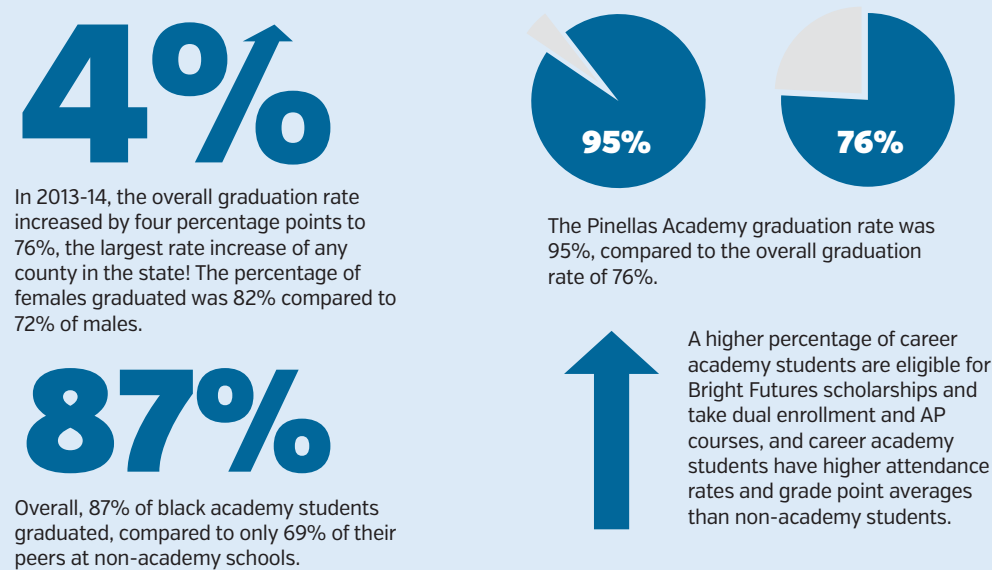
"The College & Career Academies of Rockford are an outstanding example of how educators and community members can organize and align their resources in support of a strong plan to implement high school career academies. Their goal of reaching "Model" status by 2016 was certainly surpassed!"  
Cheryl Carrier

"We are honored and privileged to do this work on behalf of the students who have so much invested in a relevant and transformed education."  
Ehren Jarrett  
Rockford Public School Superintendent



### Pinellas County, FL, Ford NGL Model Community Designation (August 26)

In August, Pinellas County, FL, became the second Ford NGL Model Community in the Network. Pinellas has had amazing success with its career academies and career and technical education. Superintendent Michael Grego cited the following statistics:



### Pinellas County, FL, Ford NGL Innovation Center Designation (December 4)

In December, Pinellas was designated as a new Ford NGL Innovation Center in Florida. As an Innovation Center, Pinellas will be a resource for the Ford NGL Network through hosting study visits, conferences, and other events.

"We are delighted to be partnering with the Pinellas Education Foundation on this valuable initiative. PEF has a proven record of supporting quality career academies and sharing what they've learned with other Ford NGL communities, giving more young people the benefits of real-world experience as they work toward a career."  
Cheryl Carrier

### Ford NGL Learning Lab in Coachella Valley, CA (September 9-11)

Our communities are the greatest sources of strength and expertise in the Ford NGL Network. Ford NGL Learning Labs provide an opportunity for Ford NGL community teams from across the country to engage in a collaborative environment, work through common challenges, share resources, and dive deeply into elements of the Ford NGL framework. Teams leave with concrete tools and strategies that can be used to enhance initiatives in their communities. Ford NGL colleagues in Coachella Valley brought together the best and brightest from their region's Industry Council network to host an exclusive Ford NGL Industry Councils Learning Lab. Industry Councils synthesize information on workforce demand and workplace needs and provide opportunities and advice to secondary and postsecondary institutions. The Coachella Valley Economic Partnership (CVEP) team took participants behind the scenes, provided opportunities for collaboration with experts, and shared tips and strategies needed to drive and accelerate community change.



## Ford NGL: Connecting Communities



NCAC Conference and Henk Koning Award [November 5-7]: Ford NGL was awarded the National Career Academy Coalition (NCAC) Henk Koning Exemplary Partnership Award at the opening reception of NCAC's 2015 conference. The award honors an individual, organization, or governing board that exemplifies a true working partnership between schools and business partners.

"A movie could be made of Henk Koning's life. He joined the Royal Dutch Navy when he was 18 years old. In the early days of the Second World War, his ship was sunk, but he managed to get to the safe shores of England. He continued to serve as a naval officer at sea, both in Europe and in the Far East until the end of the war when he moved to the United States. He worked as an electrical engineer for the Philadelphia Electric Company (PECO), the founding company of the career academy model.

He became interested in theology and was ordained in the Episcopal Church in 1961; he continued to work at PECO. In 1969, Henk's boss, CEO Lee Everett, co-founder of the academy model, asked him to help with a "little project" that he was working on that would connect high school students and their teachers to the business community and real jobs.

Henk said no.

Can you imagine? Submarine boat captain, boat sinks, swimming through shark-infested waters, ordained minister—but the thought of working with the school district scared the hell out of him?

Thanks to Lee's persistence and vision, Henk eventually said yes. And like most of us who came from the business community and started working with career academies, Henk got hooked. He worked side by side with teachers helping to create a curriculum that infused electrical concepts across subjects. He was a gatherer and a connector, and he worked tirelessly to bring more companies into the project. He knew they were creating something enduring and truly collaborative.

The Henk Koning Award goes to a modern day connector and gatherer—to a company that works tirelessly to bring diverse groups together, helping communities create a master plan for their schools that is enduring and truly collaborative."

-Connie Majka at the NCAC Opening Reception

# STUDENT VOICES

“I can’t put into words how influential the academy has been to me. It has opened my eyes. I have had so many opportunities. I’ve been able to travel. I submitted a video and was chosen for the national conference in October. I was sitting in the parking lot of Walmart and Mrs. Delgado from Ford NGL contacted me—I was so happy. It was the first time I was on a plane.”

**Heather Mischle**  
Academy student,  
Volusia County, FL  
Class of 2016

“Within the academies, students have unlimited opportunities to expand their high school involvement by having smaller learning communities, attending guest speaker presentations, participating in community service events, learning with Project-Based Learning, and growing through educational field trips. In addition, we gain the privilege to have more one-on-one time with teachers.”

**Josiah Garza**  
Academy Student  
La Joya, TX

“The academies have transformed many of us, if not all of us. We seem to have more confidence and determination to succeed. We have taken challenges many of us never imagined taking. We are shaping our future as of now. We have learned to take responsibility for our actions and how to care for one another. We are a family, and as a family we encourage each other to keep meeting the standards and expectations of the academies and our teachers.”

**Leslie Marquez**, Academy Student, La Joya, TX



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**NEXT GENERATION**  
**LEARNING** 

*Education Innovation*

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### Partnership Highlight

## Businesses Open Doors to Educators (Racine, WI)

Racine created a wonderful opportunity for educators and employers to connect. Over 400 Racine Unified high school staff got a chance to visit local businesses, tour facilities, learn about day-to-day operations, and meet with employers. This is one of the community's first steps in implementing the Academies of Racine in Fall 2016, and provide opportunities for educators to learn more about local businesses and their needs for future graduates. It also gave both educators and employers a chance to build relationships that will be instrumental down the road.



### Partnership Highlight:

## A Full-time Instructor from a Fortune 500 Company (Gordon County, GA)

Mohawk Industries and the Gordon County College and Career Academy launched a unique partnership in 2015. Mohawk dedicated a full-time employee to GCCCA to serve as the mechatronics instructor and lead the development of GCCCA's industrial electrical lab that is slated to open in Spring 2016. Mohawk has also pledged equipment and materials for the mechatronics and industrial electrical lab, as well as paid pre-apprenticeships and internships for students.

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# STUDENT VOICES

**“Students are capable of changing their world and ours. They can do much more than is usually asked of them.”**

**Jessica Juliuson, EDC**

