

**ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY ACADEMY** The demands of the new century require new options for teaching and learning, and new opportunities for academic and professional success. The curriculum offered by Advanced Technology Academy is intellectually engaging, educationally effective, and personally rewarding. It provides a practical link between classroom learning, higher education, and workplace realities. The teaching and learning system at ATA is designed to excite students and help them see opportunities and set clearer courses for their educational and professional futures. The academy is committed to the cause of educational excellence and individual accomplishment.

## Accreditation

The North Central Association Commission on Accreditation and School Improvement (NCA CASI) has certified that ATA, having been duly examined and approved, has been accredited by the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools. NCA has further certified that ATA has been continuously accredited by the North Central Association since the year 2005-2006. This certificate is valid as long as this school maintains the standards for the accrediting of schools as defined by the Commission on Accreditation and School Improvement.

## Our Mission

To provide students with high-quality interdisciplinary learning experiences that challenge students academically and develop their problem-solving, critical thinking, and communication skills. By building strong local partnerships with business and higher education, Advanced Technology Academy and our Ford PAS Business Education Advisory Council encourage and prepare students for success in college and professional careers in fields such as business, engineering, and technology.

# A CAREER ACADEMY AT THE COMMUNITY LEVEL

## ATA UNIVERSITY CENTER

### Curriculum

The curriculum of the Advanced Technology Academy, is designed to merge the last two years of high school with the first two years of college. It is rooted in the Ford Partnership for Advanced Studies curriculum, Michigan Merit Curriculum framework, and college course offered through Lake Superior State University, and Davenport University.

The grade school curriculum is centered on the Amistad Education Model. This model was developed with the assistance of Yale Law School in New Haven, Connecticut. This academically focused curriculum is intended to narrow the achievement gap between urban and suburban students.

### Lake Superior State University

The Advanced Technology Academy offers a wide variety of college dual-enrollment courses through its charter authorizer, Lake Superior State University. Lake State dual-enrolled courses enable ATA to effectively combine the last two years of high school with the first two years of college. This fusion accomplishes two goals. First it allows ATA students to earn free college credits while still in high school. At the same time, these courses provide a level of challenge to students that will keep them actively engaged in school throughout their high school careers.

In addition to providing dual-enrollment courses to ATA, LSSU is also the college choice of many ATA graduates. Students are eager to matriculate to LSSU due to its strong engineering and business programs, small size and its intimate campus setting in Sault Ste. Marie, MI.

### Dual-Enrolled Classes through Davenport University

In 2008, the Advanced Technology Academy, partnered with Davenport University, to offer ATA students dual enrolled credit. Davenport University, prepares students for the most in-demand, fastest-growing careers in business, health care and technology. In order for students to receive university credit students must receive a 73% or better in the dual enrollment class. The number and type of classes that ATA students are enrolled in will be determined by the track that the student chooses during their sophomore year. Classes are taught by ATA faculty that possess a Masters Degree or higher and have been approved as adjunct faculty by Davenport University.

Davenport University, is an independent, nonprofit institution that is chartered by the State of Michigan. Davenport University, is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission-North Central Association of Colleges and Schools.

### Ford Partnership for Advanced Studies (Ford PAS)

The Ford Partnership for Advanced Studies, (Ford PAS), is an academically rigorous, interdisciplinary curriculum, and program that provides students with content knowledge, and skills necessary for future success—in areas such as business, economics, engineering, and technology. The inquiry and project based program offers a series of modules that link learning in traditional academic subjects with the challenges students face in post-secondary education as well as workplace expectations that they will face as adults. These links are forged through community-wide, cooperative efforts, and innovative partnerships that join local high schools, colleges and universities, and businesses. Through coordinated, real-world learning opportunities, Ford PAS provides experiences to help students make decisions about their future education and careers.

Ford PAS, was developed by Ford Motor Company Fund, in partnership with Education Development Center Inc. (EDC), to encourage high school students to pursue their education—and build successful careers—in business, engineering, and technology,

## Components of the Ford PAS Program

Ford PAS provides students with knowledge and skills necessary for future success using academically rigorous and interdisciplinary materials. The curriculum is designed to cover: communication, English, social studies, math, economics, and science.

The curriculum integrates academically rigorous, standards-based content with realistic applications in areas such as: design and product development, information systems, environmental sustainability, global economics, business planning, personal finance, and marketing.

The 20 modules that make up the Ford PAS curriculum are organized into seven themes:

- Foundations in 21st-Century Skills
- Working Toward Sustainability
- Getting Smart About Business
- Manufacturing for Tomorrow
- Data, Decisions, and Design
- Living in a Global Economy
- Putting Math to Work

**Partnerships:** Network of relationships with a variety of organizations—including state departments of education, postsecondary institutions, businesses, community-based organizations, and school districts that support implementation of the Ford PAS program at affiliated sites.

## University of Detroit - Mercy (UDM) and the Business Education Advisory Council (BEAC)

The Ford Partnership for Advanced Studies at ATA is sponsored by Ford Motor Company through the University of Detroit - Mercy. UDM provides administrative and financial support to the Ford PAS program at ATA. By closely coordinating its Ford PAS program with an institution of higher learning, ATA is able to enrich and deepen the non-classroom experiences of its students. These experiences include campus visits, school speakers, summer camps and other educational opportunities.

The Business/Education Advisory Council (BEAC) is an integral part of the Ford PAS program and is intended to provide a supportive link between the school program and local businesses, community organizations, and institutions of higher education. The ATA BEAC provides volunteers to enrich classroom experiences, facilitates workplace and higher education learning opportunities for Ford PAS students, and helps establish other valuable contacts with organizations outside the school. The BEAC also helps with program planning, budgeting, fundraising, and public relations. BEAC members include business and industry representatives, faculty and staff of colleges and universities, community leaders, Ford PAS teachers, school administrators, and students and members of their families.

## National Career Readiness Certificate

Upon graduation from Advanced Technology Academy, qualifying seniors receive a National Career Readiness Certificate. This certificate is a national portable work credential backed by ACT and states that its recipients are career ready. Students qualify for the NCRC by passing the WorkKeys (Applied Mathematics, Locating Information, and Reading for Information) portion of the Michigan Merit Examination with a level 3 or higher. Although, this exam is given to every junior in Michigan ATA specializes in training its students to be career ready through its incorporation of KeyTrain (a WorkKeys curriculum) and technical skills based upon Microsoft Office Suite skills.