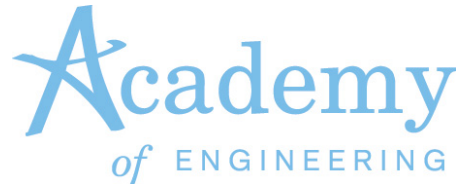


## *We choose Albany public schools because ...*

### **Academy of Engineering to debut next fall**

About 75 Albany High School freshmen will have a new experience next fall that will be unmatched in almost every other American high school.

The students will be the first class to enter Albany High's new Academy of Engineering, an initiative focused on exposing high school students to careers in science, technology, engineering and math.



The National Academy Foundation, in collaboration with Project Lead the Way and the National Action Council for Minorities in Engineering, launched engineering academies at 13 U.S. high schools this school year. Albany High is among 20 additional high schools that will admit the first class of students in September.

Whether Albany High's Academy of Engineering graduates go on to college or into the workforce in any one of a number of emerging industries focusing on new technologies, "this is an opportunity for our kids to hit the ground running right out of high school," said Daniel Stilson, the City School District of Albany's instructional supervisor for science.

The Academy of Engineering will enroll 75-100 freshmen each year, beginning next fall with members of the Class of 2013. The academy will have a total enrollment of 300-400 students when it is fully phased in across the four grade levels at the start of the 2012-13 school year.



**Albany High students already have a leg up in science and engineering through the district's partnerships with area businesses and institutions.**

The academy will be located at Albany High for the first year in 2009-10, with students attending core courses in six adjoining classrooms on the first floor of the school's academic building. The location for the second and subsequent years – whether at Albany High or another location – has yet to be determined.

Albany High's academy staff is planning for next year, including meeting with students and parents to provide information and recruit students for the inaugural class.

“This is an exciting opportunity to provide all of our students with the skills that will prepare them to become leaders in this evolving workplace, whether they choose to pursue rewarding careers immediately after high school graduation or continue on to college,” said Superintendent Eva C. Joseph, Ed.D.

Pillars of National Academy Foundation programs include accessibility and success for all students, 100 percent graduation rate of students in the academy and work or internship experience during their academy careers.

The Academy of Engineering model provides business leaders the opportunity to partner with schools by securing internships, volunteering in classrooms, acting as mentors and serving on local advisory boards.

“The internship aspect is huge,” Mr. Stilson said. “When colleges and employers see that they performed not only in the classroom, but out in the real world, that’s what everybody is looking for.”

National partnerships with the National Academy Foundation position many of these engineering companies to engage their employees in academies, assisting students to prepare for college and careers, and providing their companies with an important workforce for the future.

The Capital Region’s emergence as an international leader in the burgeoning field of nanoscience has been an essential element in the school district’s efforts to develop cutting-edge science and technology programs for all of its students.

The Academy of Engineering is a significant advance in that critical initiative.

“The industry potential is limitless,” Mr. Stilson said. “The Capital Region is on the verge of an economic boom, where advancements in science and engineering at the nano level are happening so fast that the workforce needs cannot keep up.”

Among the factors in Albany High’s favor was its current leadership in science, technology, engineering and math. Already a partner with Project Lead the Way, the district launched the first public-school-based nanosciences curriculum last year in partnership with the University at Albany’s College of Nanoscale Science and Engineering.

A major emphasis of the Academy of Engineering will be exposing all students to career pathways they can follow with a high school diploma or with advanced levels of education.

Starting salaries in many emerging technology fields range from up to \$70,000 with a minimum requirement of a high school diploma to \$90,000 with a bachelor’s degree and more than \$100,000 with a Ph.D.

“Our graduates will be fluent in the real-world work that needs to be done, and in the team approach to seeing a concept through each phase of production to the product that’s used in real life to benefit society,” Mr. Stilson said.