



THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF  
UNIVERSITY CITY  
Transform the Life of Every Student Every Day!

# NewsRelease

Contact: Communications & Community Outreach Department  
8136 Groby Road, University City, MO 63130

Communications@ucityschools.org  
(314) 290-4001 - Fax: (314) 725-7846

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **University City High School Launches New Academy Structure for 2019-20 School Year**

*UCHS Joins National Network That Provides the Tools, Resources and Opportunities Necessary to Ensure that All High School Students Are College, Career and Future Ready*

**University City, MO** – University City High School (UCHS) will begin implementation of a new NAF Academy structure during the 2019-20 academic year following a rigorous year of planning and preparation. NAF is a national network of education, business and community leaders working together to ensure high school students are prepared for their future.

University City is just the second school district in the St. Louis metropolitan area to partner with NAF. Through a NAF academy, students can earn NAFTrack Certification and a potential opening to jobs or internships with NAF's corporate partners such as MasterCard, Hewlett-Packard or World Wide Technology.

To qualify for the NAFTrack certification program, students entering either 9th or 10th grade must take at least two classes in their chosen career path and also be enrolled at some point in a dual credit or college level class. Students will also have to complete a 150-hour paid internship in their career field.

NAF Academies in Biomedical Sciences and Engineering will launch at UCHS in 2019-20, with academies in other fields to follow in subsequent years. Students will remain in core classes as required for graduation, but the academies will dictate what elective classes students can take. Through a directed curriculum, students will be exposed to unique learning opportunities within their chosen field.

“We want our students to have already explored their strengths and interests, so they have a good idea of what their career path will look like when they leave high school,” said Susan Hill, director of Pk-12 College and Career Readiness and Access. “NAF will prepare students to get them to and through college, or if they decide not to go directly to college, they're prepared to go in whatever career direction they choose.”

University City High School is now part of NAF's network of 675 academies across 36 states, including DC and the US Virgin Islands. NAF provides high school students with career-themed instruction and hands on experiences in viable industries including finance, hospitality & tourism, information technology, engineering, and health sciences. To start a NAF academy, interested schools must apply and then be chosen through a selective process. They then begin the eighteen month “Year of Planning” program aimed at ensuring that the new academies will fulfill their promise to students and the community. For more information, please visit [www.naf.org](http://www.naf.org).

**#UCLionPride**

*On February 21, 1911, with a City population of only 2,417, The School District of University City was officially established. Classes began in September 1912 with a total school population of 769. Today, you will find outstanding educational programs serving a student population of approximately 2,800 with a preschool, four elementary schools, one middle school and one high school. In May 2018, University City High School held its 101<sup>st</sup> formal Commencement Ceremony.*