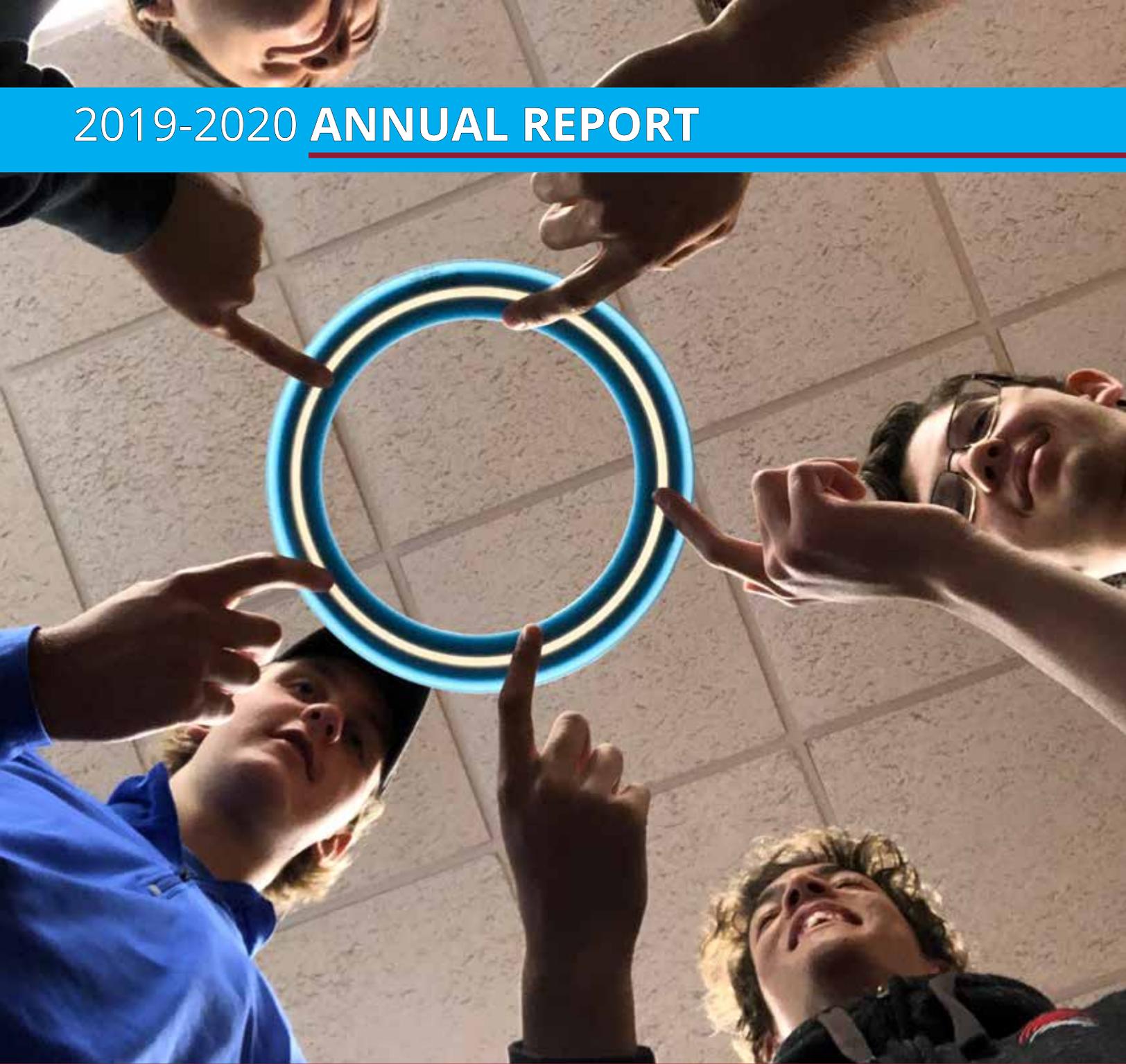


2019-2020 **ANNUAL REPORT**



UNLEASH PASSION. REALIZE POTENTIAL. IMPACT THE WORLD.

**ORBIS**

## ▶ Shared Commitments and Beliefs

### **To all stakeholders:**

We assume best intentions.

We commit to value-added experiences.

### **To our students:**

We possess a growth mindset with all students.

We untap students' potential, igniting the amazing things they can do.

We empower students while unleashing their passions.

We encourage students to work through the struggles of learning.

We ensure experiences reflective of what students are ultimately going to experience in their careers, including 21st century employability skills.

We ensure each student feels a sense of belonging in Orbis, with an authentic relationship with at least one adult.

We provide the best possible experience for our students. Students are our first customers. (Our ROI is learning for students.)

### **To our project providers:**

We look out for our project providers' best interests. We work diligently to build, strengthen, and sustain partnerships with project providers. (ROI is successful project completion.)

### **To our Orbis teammates:**

We work interdependently as a team, maximizing each other's strengths.

We embrace mistakes and learn from them. We accept mistakes collectively, work through them together, learn from them, and take action for improvement.

We are purposeful and strategic in the language we use and how we communicate with stakeholders (both internal and external).

We support each other in sharpening the saw (Orbis/life integration).

## LEADERSHIP TEAM

### **Dr. Jill Urich**

Director

### **Chad Brooks**

Program Mentor

### **Joel Fox**

Program Mentor

### **Stephanie Vittetoe**

Assistant

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## Our Mission

The mission of Orbis is to engage all students with authentic learning experiences that prepare them for a lifetime of personal success beyond high school, regardless of pathway after high school graduation. In partnership with the workforce, educational institutions, and our local and global community, students will apply and strengthen essential skills of critical thinking, complex communication, creativity, collaboration, flexibility/adaptability, and productivity/accountability.



## ▶ *From the Director*

Welcome to Orbis, where students unleash their passion, realize their potential, and impact the world. Synergy abounds as our Project Mentors team up with Project Providers and Workforce Experts to equip the next generation of creative problem-solvers. What makes us unique? Student Innovators:

- Co-design their learning, engaging in personalized experiences unique to their passions, interests, and skills.
- Engage in authentic project work with the workforce.
- Collaborate with the workforce and peers from multiple high schools.
- Are empowered as young professionals.

Our Orbis guarantee is that we bridge classroom learning with the community and workforce. Our alumni consistently report the unique, relevant impact their Orbis experiences have had on their lives after high school, no matter their college or career field of choice. Specifically, they have strengthened skills in leadership, problem-solving, communication, and collaboration, all of which apply to every career field. Put simply, the mystery of life outside of the bricks and mortar of a school setting is unveiled in Orbis. Students are more confident in advocating for themselves, have applied business practices in innovation and problem-solving, and are passionate about serving others and making a difference.

Our partners are a key driver to the success of Orbis. Whether you are a high school student, a business, a nonprofit organization, a post-secondary educational institution, a workforce expert, a community member, or someone with an interest in being an active part of our energizing Orbis experience, there is a place for you. Join us, and let's be curious together and make a difference!

## RECOGNITION ▶

**2019 Stem Best® Enhancement Award**  
**2019 AEDC Public-Private Partnership Award**  
**2019 Prairie Meadows Community Betterment Grant**



**ANKENY**

Economic Development Corporation

*Building on Success*

## Participation ▶

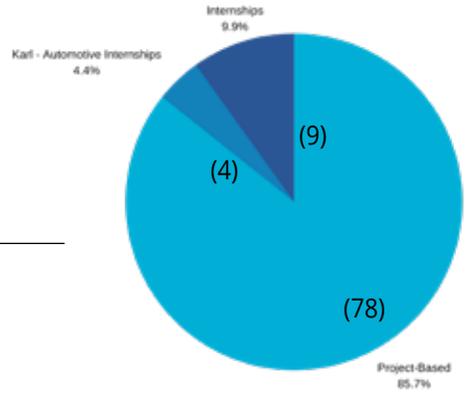
Ankeny Community School District and Orbis are proud to welcome students from our surrounding community. In 2019-2020 students from four area high schools participated in Orbis. Ankeny, Ankeny Centennial, North Polk, and Saydel.



# Orbis by the Numbers

1

Number of Students Enrolled,  
Fall Semester 2019



2

Number of Projects



70+  
Projects

3

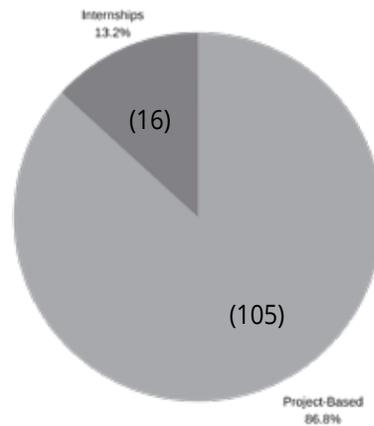
Number of Colleges/Universities



5  
Colleges/Universities

4

Number of Students Enrolled,  
Spring Semester 2020



5

Number of Business Contacts



200+  
Business/Organization  
Partners

# Orbis Alumni

"I would not have my amazing job at Karl's Emergency Vehicles without Orbis." - Bryce F.

## Where Are They Now? ►

- Mya Bailey** Pursuing a degree in Game Art from Full Sail University
- Abbie Dalton** Studying Global Health and Ethics in preparation for Law School
- Bryce Follett** Working full-time at Karl's Emergency Vehicles while attending DMACC
- Jess Gaumer** Majoring in Kinesiology at DePauw University
- Sharon Mamuya** Attending Drake University majoring in International Relations
- Colin Manley** Attending Aeroguard Aviation School in Chandler, AZ
- JJ SchraderBachar** Spent 19-20 as an exchange student in Chili, started his own media company RWF Media, attending Iowa State University in the fall
- Cassie Severson** Majoring in Secondary Education and playing softball at Central College
- Haley Wall (McNear)** Studying Animation while starting her own sticker and print business
- Mary Katherine Webb** Attending the American Academy of Dramatic Arts in Los Angeles, CA

"Orbis helped me with my collaboration and leadership skills."  
- Cassie S.



"I learned a great way to manage my workflow with Scrum and that planning things out is important."  
- JJ S.



"Orbis helped me learn project management and what my strengths and weaknesses are in a group setting."  
- Jess G.

# Program Summary

## Project-Based Experience ▶

Orbis Project-Based Experiences (PBE) engages teams of students from several area high schools, in partnership with the workforce, in the solving of real problems and in improving our local and global community. Experiences are grounded in leadership, problem-solving, and communication skills. Authentic problems lead to project ideas, and students' passions will be matched to projects. Because students' passions direct their project work and learning, no two students have the same Orbis experience. All students have some common experiences, and yet each student has an individualized experience in which they have an active voice in designing. Orbis students report they experience significant growth in empathy, confidence, leadership skills, professional communication skills, creative problem-solving abilities, and collaboration skills all while making a difference in the community and gaining valuable authentic experiences.

## Innovator Quotes ▶



"The **energy** people feel when they're here. It's **positive** and **supportive**, and you feel like you can do anything you set your mind to."

"We **embrace failure** and learn from it in order to **succeed**."



## Project Management ▶

Innovators engage in learning in project management using the Scrum methodology. As a part of the onboarding process innovators learn the philosophy, importance, and fundamentals of project management. Innovation teams engage in simulated activities, workshops, and short-term projects as a part of this training.



## Advanced Insights Profiles ▶

The onboarding process includes the Advanced Insights profile, which includes three world-class behavioral profiles. The level of self-awareness provided by these profiles are at the core of improving in problem-solving, leadership, and collaboration.



**RESULTS GROUP**  
15 YEAR ANNIVERSARY

**"I'm now more accepting of people who don't necessarily think like I do or hold different views than me."**  
**- Student Innovator**

# New this year

## Design Thinking ▶

Innovators engaged in training in Design Thinking with local innovation experts Carlos Rojas (Blue Bean) and Jeff Reed (The Elevate Co). Design Thinking is a human-centered approach to tackling complex problems through empathy, prototyping, and constant feedback from the end user.



## ▶ Project Spotlight



## Experience Innovation

**Project Provider:** Kreg Tool Company - Experience Innovation Lab

How might we help individuals without much woodworking experience develop the confidence and skills necessary to try DIY woodworking projects?

### **Project Summary:**

This project team learned and applied Lean Startup principles to identify a target customer, problem, and solution and analyze their own assumptions by running experiments. They worked to help their identified customer develop the confidence to engage in a DIY woodworking project and overcome any obstacles they might have.



# Strong Support System

## What do you like about Orbis?

"I've become more aware of what I need to do to accomplish something, the planning and time management that goes into reaching success. It's about planning and then executing."

"My belief in myself has improved. It's strengthened my ability to work independently AND my ability to work in a group."

"When I'm with my project team, I'm more comfortable now utilizing strengths of others and not micromanaging. I used to want to either do everything myself or tell everyone else what to do. Now, I know we all need to use our strengths for the success of our team."

"I'm a much better planner now! I have direction, I have learned how to break things down, create different steps, and have daily goals."

"Coming to Orbis, you have the space to try things and have a safe place to fail and learn."

"I'm now more accepting of people who don't necessarily think like I do or hold different views than me."

"In Orbis, it's about time management. One of my college friends says the biggest challenge in college is time management, and now I feel like I've been given the skills to be successful right away. I have learned how to tackle problems and manage my time."

"I'm more confident in sharing my voice and sharing it in a way to get my point across."

"The best part about Orbis is the opportunities for students. It takes us out of a traditional classroom and exposes us to different kinds of experiences, interacting with professionals and building a network of people to connect with after high school. The professional network I was able to build has already connected me to an internship in the summers and a possible opportunity for employment after college."

Orbis is so unique compared to my other classes. We have what I call freedom with regulation. We get to choose our projects based on our own interests. Orbis sets me up for success because we're taught to have ownership of how we work and how we operate as long as we are being productive. Orbis allows us to grow in different ways depending on our own strengths and interests."

"Orbis definitely broke me out of my shell and taught me how to interact with others, including professional adults. It has prepared me to speak with business professionals as I think about next steps in my education and career."

"I like the person I've become in Orbis. People who knew me before Orbis would tell you I'm more of a quiet person. Now, I'm comfortable taking the lead, and I'm more outgoing. I'm not afraid to jump in and do my part to help."

"Before Orbis, I was more of a 'point A to point B' person, but Orbis changed that for me. Now, I'm more willing to adapt, I'm more flexible and can adjust in the midst of a situation or challenge."

"There's lots of good energy in Orbis. When we first started, we didn't really know each other, and yet we felt welcomed and felt like part of a family right away. I like how there are so many choices of projects and ideas to go after. You really get to know each other professionally and personally. And, the Advanced Insights profile helped me get to know myself better."

"Orbis was like a lightning rod for me; it captured my attention and helped me develop skills needed for life. I loved learning in all the different projects I did. It was cool to see how a project progresses over time from beginning to end and the impact it makes on other people in the community."



## Community Involvement ▶

*During the year workforce experts provide mentoring, training, and one-on-one coaching. Their dedication and support greatly improve the innovator experience.*

Joey Beech	AEDC
Stephanie Braun	ACSD
Brett Burkhart	Kreg Tool
Bob Cox	Ret. Pentagon Engineer
Jake Kerber	Kerber Tech
Josh Lundahl	ACSD
Dorene MacVey	iThrive 31
Renee Murphy	Sassy Social Media
Trent Murphy	CJM Financial
Dave Nelson	Pratum
Jill Olson	Results Group
Erik Pingel	ISG
Allen Rauschel	Kreg Tool
Carlos Rojas	Blue Bean
Jeff Reed	The Elevate Co
Sue Schirmer	Heartland AEA

## Corporate Tours

Accumold  
On with Life

## Mock Interviews ▶

Bethany Baratta	Iowa Soybean Assoc.
Dave Brown	Kreg Tool
Alisha Griffith	Casey's
Terry Hatfield	Story Construction
Katie James	Iowa Soybean Assoc.
Jennifer Konfrst	State Representative
Josie Lewis	ACSD
Heather Matson	State Representative
Ken Morris	ACSD
Jackie Rolow	Shazam
Kylie Wroge	Casey's

## School Board ▶

Lori Lovstad, President  
Aaron Johnson, Vice President  
Deshara Bohanna  
Katie Claeys  
Jim Ford  
Amy Tagliareni  
Ryan Weldon



## Ankeny Advance

**Project Provider:**  
ACSD

How might we design, create, and publish the primary newsletter, which is mailed to all households, for Ankeny Community Schools.

**Project Summary:**

Orbis Innovators published a 16-page district newsletter on behalf of Ankeny Community Schools. Innovators were given approximately two weeks at the start of the year to design, create, and edit all content including interviews, photographs, and infographics.

## F.R.E.D (Food Recovery Education, & Distribution)

**Project Provider:**  
Rock Creek Elementary

How might we reduce food waste at lunch and help those who deal with food insecurity?

**Project Summary:**

Through the FRED program, Innovators worked with Rock Creek Elementary and Ankeny School Nutrition Department to collect and redistribute unwanted food items through a share bin program. The team also worked to create education materials to inform students about making responsible choices when selecting items for lunch.

# Special Events

*During the year Innovators have many opportunities to participate in additional events on behalf of Orbis.*



Innovators pose with Governor Kim Reynolds at the STEM Day at the Capitol

U.S. Representative Cindy Axne spent time with Innovators to discuss the impact Orbis has on their education.



Simpson College's StartUp Storm is an event to inspire young entrepreneurs.

Attendance at Ankeny Economic Development's annual Salute to Industry.



# Internships

Sophie Bergan	World Food Prize
Joel Chambers	Lutheran Church of Hope
Emmaline DeBrower	Ankeny Animal and Avian Clinic
Peter Dengler	ACHS Athletic Training
Bailey Dennis	Engineered Per4mance
Jacob Dozler	Karl Chevrolet
Alex Faidley	Orbis
Creighton Feree	Ankeny Dance
Natalie France	Kreg Tool
Seair Jackman	Paragon IT Professionals
Charlie Jensen	ACHS Athletic Training
Ty Kunzman	Cook Plumbing
Ali Lundberg	Ankeny PT & ACHS Training
Cole Mateer	Karl Chevrolet
Miya Pine	Prairie Ridge Church
Benton Renaud	Capitol Page
Garrett Rinker	Brown National Lease
Robert Schaer	Blank Park Zoo
Sohia Schoolen	Lamberti, Gocke, & Luetje Law
Jacob Valerio-Garsow	Gold Star Museum
Lily Wrobel	Keystone Church

## Karl Chevrolet Service Academy



### Immersion into All Aspects of an Automotive Service Career

This course provides an integrated approach into learning about a service career in the transportation industry. Participants engage in authentic learning experiences in a service atmosphere as they explore various careers, solve problems, and further their automotive knowledge.

#### Participants

Daniel (DJ) Dahlheimer  
Jacob Dozler  
Cole Mateer  
Carson Tighe

*"Everything I've learned in Orbis helps me outside in the real world, how to manage my time, how to work well with others, how to seek out information." -Student Innovator*



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**Orbis Website: [www.ankenyschools.org/orbis](http://www.ankenyschools.org/orbis)**

**Twitter: [@ACSDOrbis](https://twitter.com/ACSDOrbis)**

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