



2018-2019  
ANNUAL REPORT

Unleash **passion.**  
Realize **potential.**  
Impact **the world.**

► **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**

**Jill Urich**

Director

**Chad Brooks**

Program Mentor

**Joel Fox**

Program Mentor

**Stephanie Vittetoe**

Assistant

## 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.

## 2017 Stem Best® Program Partner



### GOVERNOR'S STEM ADVISORY COUNCIL

dedicated to building a strong STEM education foundation for all Iowans

Ankeny Community School District's college and career program, Orbis, has been named a STEM BEST® program by the Iowa Governor's STEM Advisory Council. STEM BEST (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math; Businesses Engaging Students and Teachers) focuses on teachers and

industry professionals working side-by-side to craft curriculum and projects that prepare students for exciting STEM careers local to their community in manufacturing, information technology, bioscience (agriculture and medicine), finance and more. Each awardee demonstrated, through a rigorous proposal process substantive commitments on the part of school and business stakeholders, to bridge these two cultures through education programs deeply interwoven with business applications.

"STEM BEST fosters an environment where communities match the needs of the local workforce to the skills students learn and gain in the classroom," said Accumold President and CEO Roger Hargens, co-chair of the STEM Council. "Creating these school-business partnerships is a key priority of the STEM Council with the belief that they will meet the STEM career demand in their communities and shape the future of Iowa's economy."

"The STEM BEST satellite model will allow students to experience the industry or business environment firsthand," said Iowa Governor Kim Reynolds, co-chair of the STEM Council. "That experience is vital to prepare students for STEM success in college or career training after high school, and it allows business and industry to introduce students to outstanding career opportunities."



### ► Program Leaders

Meet the Orbis team! Dr. Jill Urich serves as the Director of College and Career Readiness - Orbis. Chad Brooks and Joel Fox serve as Project Mentors. Between them they have nearly 30 years combined experience working with Ankeny students. This team has a passion to empower young students to believe in themselves and their bright futures. They enjoy working beside students as they apply essential life skills in a work-based experience where the community is their classroom.

"To be a part of Orbis is to be a part of something greater than oneself, and the long-term impact on students and the community makes every moment intrinsically rewarding." - Jill Urich

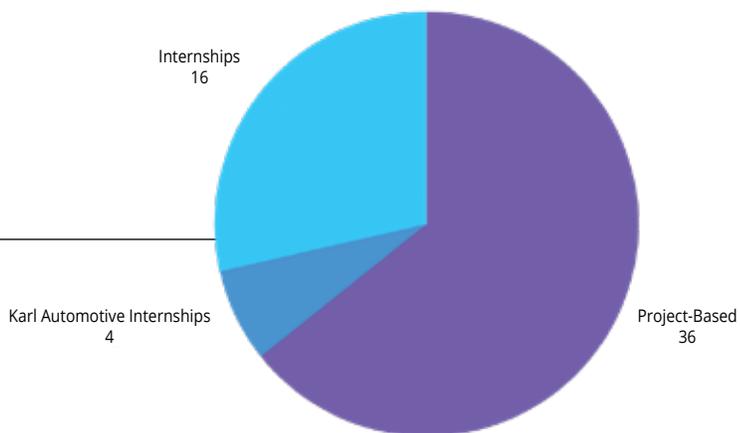
"I have truly enjoyed working with and learning alongside students, Orbis' amazing partners in the workforce, and the Orbis team. It's been an amazing year!" - Chad Brooks

"One of my favorite parts of Orbis is providing students the ability to interact with professionals and explore their passions, interests, and abilities." - Joel Fox

# Orbis by the Numbers

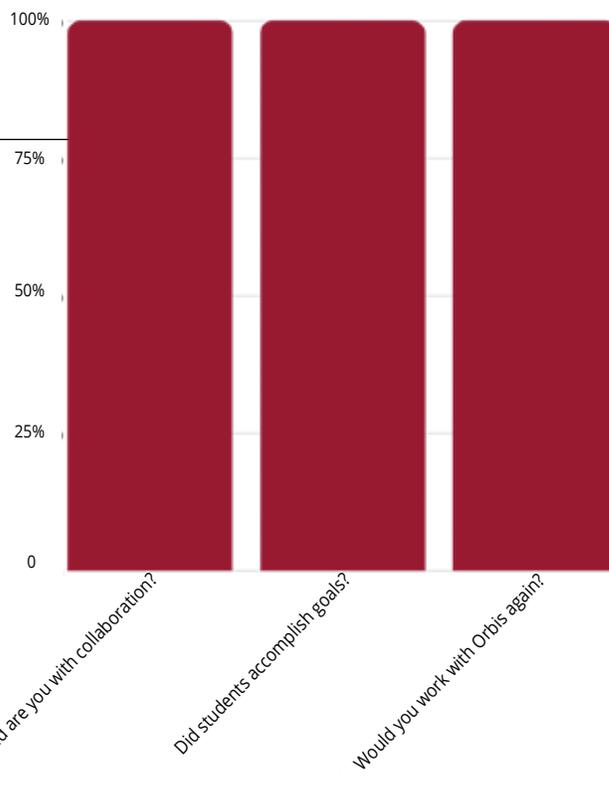
1

Number of Students Enrolled,  
Fall Semester 2018



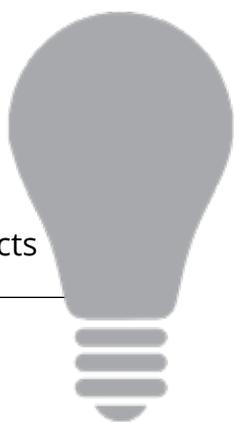
2

Project Provider Feedback



3

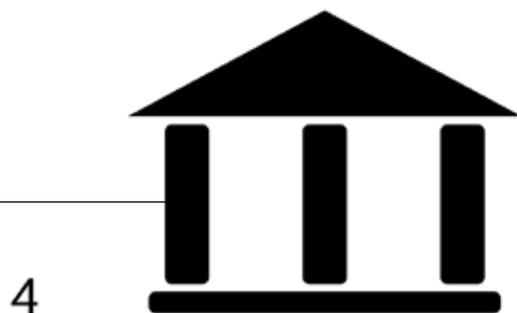
Number of Projects



55  
Projects

4

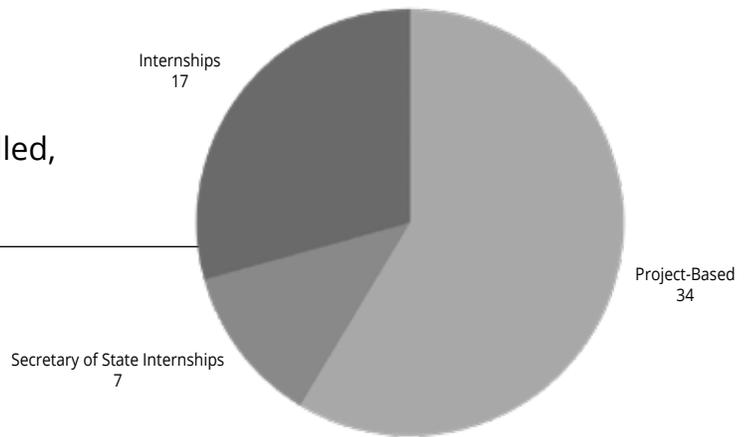
Number of Colleges/Universities



4  
Colleges/Universities

5

Number of Students Enrolled,  
Spring Semester 2019



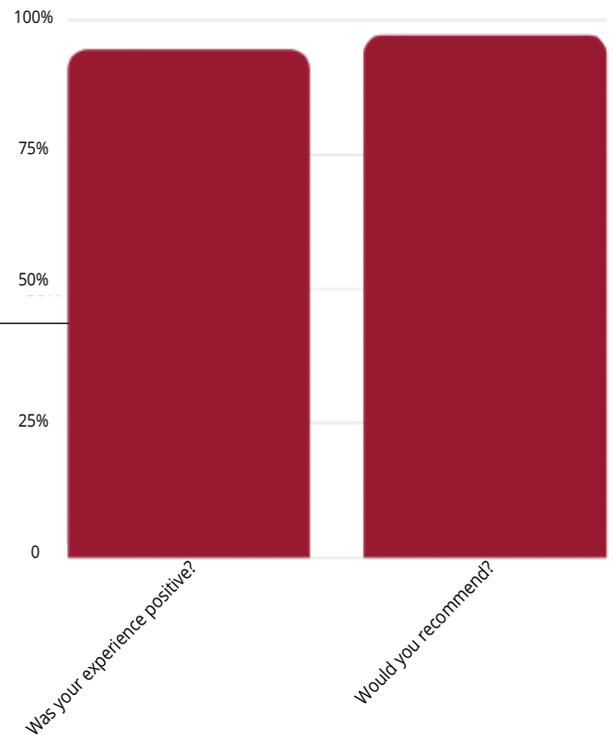
6

Number of Business Contacts



7

Student Experience Feedback



# Project-Based Experience

Meet our **Pioneer Students** ▶



▶ **Peyton Agan, Senior**

He likes the responsibility and development of real world skills that Orbis provided him. He has helped promote the Ankeny Art Center and also helped the Ankeny Bike Club with getting donations and promotion. He feels Orbis prepared him to be successful in any atmosphere.



▶ **Mya Bailey, Senior**

Orbis allowed her to expand on new interests such as cinematography and digital media, while also providing a creative but responsible atmosphere. Projects Mya worked on included editing promotional videos and designing murals for Ankeny Schools Human Resources and the new Orbis space.



▶ **Zach Baker, Senior**

As part of his Orbis experience, Zach worked on a project for WHO-TV where he and his partner analyzed the data from WHO-TV's social media accounts and advised them on how to better leverage their social media feeds to reach a younger generation. Another part of Orbis Zach enjoyed was competing in the Associated Builders and Contractor's Craft Championships at the Iowa State Fairgrounds where his team built a firewood shed.



▶ **Kenedy Balentine, Senior**

While in Orbis, Kenedy worked with three other students to improve Dr. Rachel Curtis' social media platforms and increase the number of people viewing her media. She also worked with Shift Interactive where she had the opportunity to work closely with workforce professionals. Orbis helped Kenedy feel better prepared for the future because she got to work with real professionals and learn what they want from workers.



▶ **Chase Bemisdarfer, Senior**

Chase liked how Orbis helped him with necessary courses to become an electrician. Chase's favorite part was handing his finished projects off to the project provider. Because of Orbis, Chase says he is better able to communicate with others much more effectively.



▶ **Lydia Blatt, Senior**

Her favorite things about Orbis were being able to work in groups to achieve a common goal and experiencing a new classroom dynamic. A highlight of Lydia's project work was being able to acquire better people skills while working with the Ankeny Art Center and the Before and After School Program. After taking Orbis, Lydia decided to become a teacher.



▶ **Tayler Bloom, Senior**

Tayler's favorite thing about Orbis is the freedom it provides her and other students to follow their passions and hobbies. This year, Tayler has worked on a recruitment project for the Ankeny Before and After School Program, creating strategies to reach out to potential new employees. The project-based experience program has prepared Tayler for the future by growing skills that are developed through working on real world challenges.



▶ **Laura Boury, Senior**

While she was in Orbis, she enjoyed the program's emphasis on building new skills and interacting with real business professionals, as opposed to simply doing classroom projects for a grade. The projects she participated in were designing flyers for the Polk City Community Foundation, and producing an ALICE safety video. The most valuable part of her experience was meeting with project providers to discuss the parameters and expectations of the projects.



► **Molly Britz, Senior**

Molly got to be a part of Orbis' Project-Based Experience Secretary of State class where she was able to attend Governor Reynolds' inauguration, tour the State Capitol, sit in on a senate hearing, and attend a legislative update session in Ankeny where she met multiple state legislators. Molly enjoyed working collaboratively with peers on a variety of projects throughout her time in Orbis.



► **Sam Carstensen, Senior**

Sam is interested in learning more about politics and Orbis gave him the opportunity to do so as he was in the Secretary of State section of Orbis where he worked on two projects. Sam believes Orbis has better prepared him to work and communicate with workforce professionals.



► **Sara Camargo, Senior**

Sara's experience at Orbis has improved her group and leadership skills. One of the projects she has been involved in is finding alternatives to in- and out-of school suspensions. She worked with professionals, expanded her communication skills, and learned to be punctual. Orbis prepared Sara for college by allowing her to realize her strengths and weaknesses.



► **Kayla Cook, Senior**

Kayla enjoys Orbis because she has learned about teamwork, leadership, problem solving, and collaboration. The other thing she loves about Orbis is the opportunities it gives students that they wouldn't have anywhere else because students are able to create projects based on their passions.

## “Why Ankeny” Salute to Industry

*Project Provider: Ankeny Economic Development Corporation*

### Project Goals:

- Produce a video to kick off the AEDC's annual Salute to Industry Event.
- Highlight why Ankeny is a great place to live and work and why businesses should locate here.
- Engage the audience with a video from a youthful perspective.
- Connect students with the workforce from the outset of their Orbis experience.
- Coach students on their use of Scrum methodology to manage a large project.
- Mentor students on their collaboration, problem-solving, and leadership skills.

### Project Summary:

This project was the launch project for the first ever group of Orbis students! They collaborated as they produced videos highlighting why Ankeny is so unique and a great place for families and businesses to be. They utilized the Scrum method to be efficient

and productive in their collaborative efforts as they planned, shot footage, interviewed professionals, storyboarded,

scripted, and edited their videos. Some students were able to attend the Salute to Industry event and see the video kicking off the event. It was exciting for them to be in that environment and see their work be valued and appreciated by adults.



**Check out the video that was shown at the Salute to Industry event!**

**<https://tinyurl.com/y5wgfc1w>**

## Meet our Pioneer Students ▶



▶ **Cade Cunningham, Senior**

Cade likes the freedom that Orbis gives and that there really is no limit to what you can do in the class. The main project that Cade worked in Orbis was at Cherry Glen Farms. He and two other students put together a handbook describing the unique processes that happened on the farm so that the project provider, Dr. Meylor, could export it to other communities and organizations. Orbis taught him the three soft skills (collaboration, problem solving, and leadership) that everyone needs, no matter what their line of work is.



▶ **Abbi Dalton, Senior**

Throughout her semester at Orbis she loved having hands-on experience. She had the opportunity to work with the Ankeny Fire Department and the Secretary of State. Orbis helped solidify her career plans and grow even more passionate about law and government. The connections she made will help her grow in years to come.



▶ **Abbi Edgar, Junior**

Abbi loves the unique opportunity that Orbis gives her. It has broken her out of her shell and made her more confident. Some of her favorite things in Orbis is getting to know her fellow pioneers and doing work that actually impacts the community. She feels Orbis has given her many professional skills to use in the future, including, not be afraid of talking to people of authority and how to speak in front of public crowds.



▶ **Bryce Follet, Senior**

Bryce is pursuing a career as an automotive tech. He summarized his experience in Karl Chevrolet Business Academy as a fun and knowledgeable place to learn about life in the work field.



▶ **Natalie France, Junior**

In Orbis Natalie completed an advertising video for Blue Bean and the Ankeny Chamber of Commerce, and she built and organized raised garden beds for veterans as a service project for Polk County Conservation. Orbis is a program that allows students to build themselves up outside of a classroom, gaining a lifelong experience that will be beneficial throughout life.



▶ **Trevor Fries, Senior**

Trevor liked Orbis because he got to go to businesses and learn what they have to offer. He liked his hands-on experience because he felt like he could excel.



▶ **Jess Gaumer, Senior**

Jess decided to embrace a new opportunity and take Orbis during her second semester. Throughout the course, she worked on multiple projects including teaching a bike safety course to a group of special needs students. Jess feels Orbis prepared her to communicate effectively with professionals and allowed her to collaborate with a variety of different people. Orbis has opened her eyes to the variety of careers available in her community. Jess hopes that future Orbis students are able to explore their passions through the projects they work on.



▶ **Chloe Halbrook, Junior**

Chloe worked on a project for the Ankeny Chamber of commerce, making videos for new companies in Ankeny. She is currently working on creating her own business; a website with self-help articles. She found a stronger passion for journalism through Orbis.



► **Tyler Heinzerling, Senior**

He enjoyed the freedom and independence of Orbis. Students had to be responsible to get tasks done without step by step guidance from a teacher. A project that stood out to Tyler was working with the Iowa Hall of Pride to fund raise more than a million dollars for a new outdoor display.



► **Spencer Hendrix, Senior**

Through his Orbis experience, Spencer enjoyed working in the parts department at Karl Chevrolet because they included him and made him feel like he was part of the business. Spencer feels Orbis better prepared him for his future by giving him real work experience while he was still in high school.



► **Tanner Howlett, Senior**

Tanner likes Orbis because students get to pick projects that they are passionate about. Students get to drive their learning, and they are graded based on performance, like a job. Tanner worked on a business called Teens For Success with the help of local entrepreneur Jake Kerber. Teens For Success is an online course where students can learn life-applicable skills that are not taught in the classroom.



► **Abbey Jordahl, Senior**

As an Orbis student, she enjoys the freedom and realistic work experience the class provides. The highlight of her semester at Orbis was becoming friends with a new student from Mexico as a result of a culminating project. Orbis has better prepared her for the independence and persistence the future demands.



► **Freshta Kammawi, Senior**

Orbis gave Freshta the opportunity to interact with business professionals and experience what the business world is like. She started with a group project to make a video for Ankeny Economic Development Corporation and then she worked with the United Way to help new Iowans overcome poverty. She feels better prepared for her future because she learned how to problem solve with her team and apply feedback to projects.



► **Lily King, Senior**

Orbis was an opportunity for Lily to make connections with local businesses and organizations. She worked closely with Easter Seals, Joppa, and Eat Greater Des Moines, all of which are non-profit organizations. She utilized marketing and communication skills during various Orbis projects. She feels better prepared for her future because she has real experience working in collaborative groups with her peers and professionals in the workplace.



► **Nilo Kohlbedari, Senior**

Her favorite part of Orbis was getting to choose which projects to work on and having lots of work days to get things done. She created the group Removing the Stigma with three other classmates. She learned more about mental health and raised awareness for suicide prevention. Nilo feels better prepared to work in group settings and communicate professionally, through emails and in person.



► **Spencer Krause, Senior**

What he liked about Orbis was the big world experience. For instance, he was able to go to different companies, receive tours and get an insight on what they do and how they do it. In their launch project he loved video editing and filming. Spencer feels prepared based on his Orbis experience because of his development in work ethic, understanding of why he thinks a certain way, and the power of communication.

► Project Highlight

## Ankeny Art Center Promotion

*In partnership with Ankeny Leadership Institute*

**Problem:** How do we raise awareness of the Ankeny Art Center and help engage the community in its mission?

### Project Goals:

- Increase awareness of the Ankeny Art Center in the community.
- Educate people about opportunities at the Ankeny Art Center.
- Encourage people to engage in activities at the Ankeny Art Center.
- Increase membership at the Ankeny Art Center.

### Project Summary:

Students partnered with the Ankeny Leadership Institute in their efforts to raise awareness of the Ankeny Art Center and to help it better engage the community. To do this, they created two videos to promote various programs offered at the art center, informed the community of the art center's offerings via Ankeny School's virtual backpack that is sent out to all parents, connected the director of the Ankeny Art Center with art teachers in the district to lay the groundwork for possible future partnerships / field trips, and researched and made recommendations about how to best leverage social media to engage the community in what the Ankeny Art Center has to offer.

## Meet our Pioneer Students ►



► **Jaelynn Kueker, Senior**

During the first semester, Jaelynn worked on helping ESL students in Ankeny through the United Way. This project allowed her to interact with students and solve real problems in her community. She also worked with the Orbis staff on designing a new building for the program. This project allowed her to meet with architects and learn more about the processes behind designing a space. Orbis has given her many opportunities and it has provided connections that can be used in her future.



► **Kollin Luce, Senior**

Kollin really enjoyed how the teachers made Orbis less like a school classroom and more free. Kollin enjoyed being able to help make tutorial videos to help out younger kids with their future beyond high school. He feels more prepared for the future and more comfortable moving forward with businesses due to the experience in Orbis.



► **Grace Maddox, Junior**

Grace believes Orbis has taught her many professional skills, including how to manage a large group of people and how to make sure everyone's voices are heard. She really enjoyed making ALICE safety training videos with her group and learning what really goes into the professional video making process. She believes that all the management skills will really help her in the future.



► **Sharon Mamuya, Senior**

Throughout her semester at Orbis, she has loved collaborating with other students and professionals while working on serious projects that impact others. Orbis has helped improve her collaborative skills and solidified her interests in working in government. The opportunities in Orbis will greatly improve her skills in the workforce.



► **Mya Mathes, Senior**

Mya enjoyed being in Orbis because of the friendships she made, but also being in more control of her own learning. One of her favorite projects was creating a week's worth of enrichments for the Before and After School Program. Her future is better prepared because she learned to professionally communicate with businesses, learned how to fill a leadership role, and learned how to plan a project and execute it.



► **Kyle McKenna, Senior**

The thing Kyle likes most about Orbis is learning skills not included in the required school curriculum that will give him an early advantage and a head start in his career path. Other positives include the change from the monotony of standard classes and getting to do something that could make a real difference in the community.



► **Ella McLaughlin, Junior**

In Orbis, she has been able to use her skills to speak to various churches and create videos for businesses. Ella loves Orbis because she gets the freedom to explore her passions in the real-world setting. One of Ella's highlights was meeting with multiple youth pastors in the community and going out of her comfort zone to speak to hundreds of peers. During this time, she realized her capability of talking in front of others, and she now desires to work in the field of ministry.



► **Haley McNeer, Senior**

What she liked most about Orbis was the freedom to work on projects that she was interested in. She worked on a video for Ankeny Economic Development Corporation and an app for a small business. Haley feels better prepared for her future, both in college and the workforce, because of Orbis. Orbis gives the students the independence. It also teaches students proper work etiquette.



► **Lauren McTernan, Senior**

Orbis is a great way to get out of a normal classroom setting and let creativity flow. The many projects Lauren was involved with helped her strengthen skills like writing a well worded email, taking business calls, meeting with clients, and more. She feels that Orbis has given her an advantage over other students to prepare her for a future career.



► **Connor Meyer, Senior**

In Orbis Connor really liked the freedom of exploring some real world companies and finding out more about the electrical field. Some highlights of his project work were being able to collaborate with different people and watch a product developed from just an idea into a successful project. Connor feels better prepared about his future after taking Orbis because it made him a much better collaborator in the workplace.



► **Emily Miner, Senior**

Emily enjoys Orbis because it gives her a unique opportunity to help the community and create business contacts in her high school career. Her favorite thing about Orbis is helping with the FUEL program, which is raising money for kids in the school district that can not afford school meals. Emily feels better prepared and more confident talking to employers in the future with the help of Orbis.



► **Gracie Neilsen, Junior**

Because of Orbis, Gracie feels she has a better understanding of what to expect in her future career, how her voice can influence the ideas of others and ways it can make a difference. She also feels she has the ability to adapt to the appropriate amount of professionalism for specific business scenarios. Orbis has developed Gracie by giving her a genuine understanding of what obstacles she will face in the future and what opportunities lie ahead for her.

## Meet our Pioneer Students ▶



▶ **Zach Olson, Junior**

Being in Orbis has given Zach an outlet to express many aspects of his interests. Working with the Secretary of State has allowed him to explore his interest in government, and his interest in design and communication has been explored through creating pamphlets to inform the public about various career pathways. These projects have also allowed Zach to grow and learn much more about leadership and collaboration.



▶ **Cole Pankey, Senior**

Cole loves the freedom and room for self accountability that Orbis provides. A regular classroom environment does not provide what Orbis does in terms of growth and learning. His favorite project was being on the “Social Media Marketing” team. Cole was grouped with three other peers to help improve a chiropractor’s social media presence. He specialized on Instagram creating an account for Vibrant Family Chiropractic. Cole feels he has a stronger bridge that closes the gap between high school and college because of his Orbis experience.



▶ **Chloe Peck, Senior**

Orbis, unlike many other classes, has helped Chloe to fuel her passions further and gain experiences through real life projects. She has learned how to be a better, more efficient leader while using her strengths to bring out the strengths of others. With the experience of Orbis as another notch on her belt, Chloe is excited to apply her understanding of Scrum methodology, her project management skills, and her collaboration skills to her future experiences.



▶ **Kolby Raineri, Senior**

Kolby enjoyed Orbis because of the freedom he got to complete projects and the business feel of the class. Kolby’s highlighted project was working with the Ankeny Fire Department to recruit new firefighters for his city. Kolby feels better prepared for the future because of the skills he learned in the class and his understanding of what it takes to be a leader.



▶ **Jessica Ritland, Senior**

Sparked by an interest in helping people, she spent her first semester of Orbis working with United Way to improve the lives of ESL students in Ankeny. The project led her to build a new bond with a student originally from Mexico. Another project included designing a new building for the Orbis program. Orbis has helped her prepare for future by giving her the opportunity to build connections and explore her interests, expand her horizons, and challenge herself in new ways.



▶ **Maxine Schulz, Junior**

She loves how Orbis gave her freedom in decisions and allowed her to meet and interact more with business professionals. Orbis has helped her to see a better perspective of how the work world runs. She has learned how she is expected to talk to other adults and to anticipate a problem that might arise in the future with projects.



▶ **JJ SchraderBacher, Senior**

The things he enjoys about Orbis are that it’s very student driven. He can work on things he is passionate about. JJ has coded a goal tracking app, *ithrive31*, is working on a website, *waytolift.com* and is developing a game for the iPhone. He will be better prepared for his future because of developing his skills in leadership, problem solving, and communication through Orbis.



▶ **Cassie Severson, Senior**

Cassie likes the freedom that Orbis brings when selecting a project and the way that the Scrum process helps her decide how to go about solving the problem. Orbis gives Cassie an advantage over other students because of the opportunities that it has presented. A big highlight is the ability to form connections both with team members and with professionals. Cassie feels more prepared to solve problems that present themselves because of the skills that Orbis has taught her. This project-based experience has also helped her in becoming more professional, and has pushed her to come out of her shell.



► **Devon Simmons, Senior**

Devon was able to utilize his passion for video production during Orbis as he got to work on multiple projects where he was able to produce videos. Devon really appreciated the authenticity of the work he got to engage in during Orbis as the realness of the project work is what motivated him.



► **Tim Sindt, Senior**

Through Orbis, Tim has helped the promotion of both the Ankeny Art Center and the Ankeny Bike Club. Tim feels better prepared for his future because Orbis gave him experience in the field and not just lectures in the classroom. Orbis has helped him be prepared to handle a real world job in the future.



► **Mia Sinclair, Senior**

In Orbis she had the opportunity to be a part of a group called Removing The Stigma, this was a project that she was very passionate about because it raised awareness for mental health and suicide prevention. Her favorite part was getting to work with new people and getting the chance to make a difference in her community. Orbis has better prepared Mia to enter the workforce.



► **Maddie Stites, Senior**

What Maddie liked about Orbis is that she can help make projects for companies and get their message out. She liked meeting new people and getting out of her comfort zone. She's not big on sharing ideas in school, but Orbis helped her get her ideas out that were stuck in her head. She is better prepared for the future because she got a glimpse into the business part of life and what her career might bring her.

## Fire Department Recruitment

**Project Provider:** Ankeny Fire Department

### Project Goals:

- Increase awareness of possible career opportunities in the fire department.
- Educate young people about possible post-secondary pathways to attain service jobs.
- Assist the Ankeny Fire Department in filling their pipeline of potential candidates.
- Create a long-lasting relationship between the AFD and surrounding schools.

### Project Summary:

Students started this project by educating themselves about current recruitment practices, career opportunities at the AFD, and possible post-secondary options to equip individuals for those careers.



Students connected AFD staff with principals, counselors, and PE teachers at both Ankeny high schools. Through their work with the AFD and Ankeny Schools, the AFD put on an event in PE classes at Ankeny High School where students were able to engage in some training exercises that firefighters / EMTs / paramedics put them through (dummy drag, hose pull, backboarding a dummy, CPR, etc.). WHO-TV came to the event and featured it on a newscast highlighting the effective partnership between these organizations! The team also created an informational pamphlet and planned for a booth to be set up during lunches for those who wanted more information about opportunities and post-secondary education in the field.

### Link to News Story:

<https://tinyurl.com/y2qr96o7>



## Strong Support System

### What do you like about Orbis?

"I've gained more confidence in myself. I've moved beyond being insecure and always wanting to work with a partner and now am more confident to face some things on my own."

"Learning with students from other high schools has been great! I've made new friends I would not have otherwise, and I know we will be friends after high school!"

"The SCRUM method has practical implications for many areas in life. I use it all the time now!"

"Learning how to tackle my fears of meeting with professionals! An obstacle for me personally is to take initiative, and this experience has helped me tremendously. Orbis is about deliverables, real deadlines, self-initiative, personal management, and professional communication."

"The flexibility within the Orbis experience makes each person feel valued as a learner."

"Giving students say in what they want to do, providing a safe space to mess up, a safe place to fail, a safe space to experiment, a safe space to start from nothing with a passionate idea and make it into something real that makes a difference. The onboarding experience is very helpful in learning the project management process, then having an opportunity to select a project based on my passions. I love this!"

"Getting resources and having access to workforce experts. Giving us what we need as students and helping us make connections within the community. Being flexible with each project team based on our needs."

"Orbis provides a very good environment to get your interests out there without judgment, and there is continued encouragement to explore those interests."

"Orbis gets me ahead of the game. All of it is real world."

"My personal time management and knowing myself better as a learner."  
"Leadership & overall character building."

"The individual profiles helped me learn a lot about myself and others. I now look at myself and other people through a different lens. There are multiple ways to succeed, and we need each other to get the job done in the best possible way."

"Orbis enriches us as students. It made me a better person in how I get along with others, how I work with others, and learning about the workforce and doing project work successfully."

"It's a great feeling to be productive and produce real quality work that makes a difference for other people."

"How to communicate better with a team of people and adults."

"I'm better at trusting people now. I've been so used to doing my school work solo because I want perfection. Because of Orbis, I'm now learning to trust others and count on their strengths to complete our project together."

"I'm more confident in how I present myself, and my communication skills are stronger."

"I've learned how to be a professional and apply what I've learned in my other classes."

"I have learned to talk more and share my ideas and opinions with others. Other teachers have even commented to me saying they see a difference in me."

"I'm using SCRUM and Trello for my other classes and activities!"

"Orbis looks great on my resume with the experiences I've had."

"Other classes teach me content, and in Orbis I've learned how to navigate autonomy as a young professional."

"Orbis has taught me about the healthy stress of meeting real deadlines, and now I'm better at meeting deadlines in my other classes."

"My individual profile helped me learn how to work with others in my current part-time job, and I'm communicating better with my parents."

## Meet our Pioneer Students ▶



▶ **Max Smith, Senior**

His favorite part of Orbis was the personal growth in the professional workplace. He gained skills that include a higher understanding of communication, software standards, and software development. First semester he worked on creating a goal setting app for a local business. Second semester he formed his own company to help stimulate growth in his own iPhone app.



▶ **Kacie Streeter, Senior**

Kacie liked Orbis because it allowed her the opportunity to do a project about something she was passionate about instead of being forced into learning something.



▶ **Kein Valentine, Junior**

What Kein liked about Orbis was that he was able to go out and job shadow with an HVAC technician to see a real-life experience. Kein feels more prepared for life after high school because of his Orbis experience.



▶ **Mary Katherine Webb, Senior**

The fact that every student brings something unique to the project-based environment is Mary Katherine's favorite thing about Orbis. The biggest highlight was reconnecting with past faces and making a difference in the community. Orbis has also prepared her to embrace failures and learn from them.



▶ **Jaedon Wilbur, Junior**

In his Orbis class, he is working on a project called the Freedom Mission Project and finished with ALICE safety training videos to help teachers and students. Orbis has helped Jaedon with his future by involving him with real-world work and helped with passionate public speaking opportunities.



▶ **Riley Wood, Senior**

He enjoyed the freedom and ability to work on his own schedule in Orbis, as well as the emphasis on teamwork within the class space. After working in Orbis he feels more prepared for his future with a stronger ability to communicate and work in groups efficiently with new and changing people/groups.



▶ **Nathan Wooley, Junior**

In Orbis Nathan enjoys working with people that are passionate about their project and believes that the Orbis experience has made him a better and more hardworking person. Nathan worked on making ALICE safety training videos. He believes that this experience has better prepared him for college and the future ahead of him.



## **Immersion into All Aspects of a Large Business**

This course provides an integrated approach to learning about all aspects of a large organization in the transportation industry. Participants will engage in authentic learning experiences in a business atmosphere as they explore various careers, solve problems, and engage in project work as a team.

### **Learning Features Include**

- Student may focus their experience on one of the following: overall business experience or service experience.
- Career Exploration
- Applied STEM
- Interacting with technology
- Leadership Development
- Length of Course
- One semester with opportunity to extend to two semesters
- Fall Semester: Career exploration, leadership development, and problem solving
- Spring Semester (optional): More focused work in a particular sector of the organization, engaging in project work through an internship experience.

# Secretary of State



## Partnering with the Secretary of State Office in Conducting Research and Solving Problems

Orbis Project-Based Experiences engage teams of students in partnership with the workforce in solving real problems and contributing to the betterment of our local and global community. This course will be held at the Secretary of State's office where a team of students will be actively involved in fast-paced project work and research throughout the legislative session. Much of the learning will also occur at the Orbis Collaboration Space.

### Learning Features Include

- Employability Skills
- Problem Solving
- Project-Based Learning
- Leadership Development
- Applied STEM
- Hands-on experience within government and lawmaking



# Business Partners

**Business partners in Orbis (project providers, workforce experts, leadership development, and/or hosted tours at their organizations)**

## Challenge, Perseverance and Growth

### Quotes from Project Providers:

"I was very impressed with the quality of the student projects."

"Each student embraced the challenge and followed through to completion. We learned much from the students' work."

"The students appraisal of my issue, and background research, provided a valuable solution. Students exceeded my expectations!"

"The end product was very impressive."

### Quotes from Students:

"I learned to problem-solve and search for ways to continue a project when a major roadblock presents itself."

"I learned to never stop exploring, how to think outside the box, and how I can apply myself in a real world setting."

"I learned how to manage workflow better. I learned the importance of pre-planning, and I learned the importance of being prepared for a project."

"I learned what it means to be in a lead role, how to problem solve and adapt to change, and I learned how to communicate on a more professional level."

"I learned how to use SCRUM and how to be a better leader."

"I learned how to persevere when a project got tough."

- ABC of Iowa
- Accumold
- Amanda Clark, Project-Based Learning Consultant
- Ankeny Bike Club
- Ankeny Chamber
- Ankeny Economic Development Corp.
- Ankeny Fire Department
- Ankeny Leadership Institute
- Ankeny Schools Before/After School Program
- Ankeny Schools Communications Department
- Ankeny Schools Operations Department
- Association of Talent Development
- Blue Bean Studio
- Carlos Rojas - Blue Bean Studio
- Caseys
- Cherry Glen Learning Farms
- City of Ankeny
- CJM Financial
- CSI (Commercial Service Innovation, Inc)
- Daily Kicks
- Des Moines European Heritage Association
- DMACC
- Dorene MacVay - iThrive31
- Easter Seals
- The Energy Group
- Eric Rowley - Shift Interactive
- Governor's STEMBest
- Heart of Iowa Winery
- Innovators Academy
- IowaDOT
- Iowa Workbased Learning Clearinghouse
- ISG Architecture + Engineering + Environmental + Planning
- ISU Polk County Extension and Outreach
- Jake Kerber - KerberTech & Locusic
- Jim Shook - JMS Inspection
- John Deere Des Moines Works
- Karl Chevrolet
- Keen Project Solutions
- Lutheran Church of Hope - Ankeny
- MCL Media
- North Polk School District
- Office of Iowa Secretary of State
- On With Life
- Perky Hawk & Java Jag
- Polk City Chamber
- Polk County Conservation
- Polk County Suicide Prevention Coalition
- Pratum
- Representative Heather Matson
- Results Group LLC - Jill Olson
- Rod Petersen - WHO HD
- Rueter's Equipment
- Saydel School District
- Senator Chris Cournoyer
- Senator Jack Whitver
- Shift Interactive
- Snyder & Associates
- Spark Tank, Ottumwa Schools
- Student Assistance Program (EFR)
- Todd Wehr - Shive Hattery
- Tom Clegg - Clegg Consulting
- United Way of Central Iowa (Natalie Lynch)
- VA
- Veterans in Agriculture
- Vibrant Family Chiropractic
- Waukee APEX

# Internships

## Fall 2018

Ellie Backes	Praire Ridge Church
Lizzy Johnson	Design 2 Move Chiropractic
Clayton Livinston	Classic Builders
Colin Manley	Ankeny Airport
Anna Robben	Ankeny PT
Cassie Severson	NVMS (teacher)
Mason Thompson	Rueters New Holland
Olivia Wee	Engineered Per4mance
Tanner Burns	RTL Construction
Hallie Evans	AHS Athletic Training
Daniel Fisher	ExchangeRight Real Estate
Jake McCann	AHS Video Production
James Thomlinson	Best Buy
Hannah Olmstead	Casey's (on W 1st)
Chloe Halbrook	Orbis

## Spring 2019

Dagan Fleming	Ankeny Community Theatre
Kaylee Battani	Engineered Per4mance and Rock Valley Physical Therapy
Sarah Coleman	Starbucks
Gillian Nithang	Briarwood Dental
Rachel Schon	Ankeny Physical and Sports Therapy
Olivia Wee	HyVee
Trevor Fries	Rueters
Mikaela Chambers	Ankeny Chamber of Commerce
Lizzy Johnson	Unity Point Pediatrics
Peyton Silvers	Juls Design
Riley Stewart	AFUMC
Mason Thompson	Rueters New Holland
Ellie Backes	Praire Ridge Church
Colin Manley	Ankeny Airport
Hannah Olmstead	Casey's (on W 1st)
Tyler Rodgers	Ankeny Hardware
Connor Meyer	All Pro Electrical

Summarize your overall experience as an Orbis student:

“Self-driven & eye-opening program that provides opportunities for students to learn life skills and grow in professional settings.”

“I had a good learning experience, made connections, and met a lot of awesome people.”

“I learned important life skills I’m going to use in the workforce, skills that I didn’t necessarily use before being in Orbis.”





[ankenyschools.org/orbis](http://ankenyschools.org/orbis) • (515) 963-7455 • 1102 N Ankeny Blvd. Ankeny IA, 50023

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

**Twitter: @ACSDOrbis**

**Facebook: [www.Facebook.com/AnkenyOrbis](http://www.Facebook.com/AnkenyOrbis)**

Ankeny Community School District does not discriminate based on race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, gender identity, age, disability, marital status, sexual orientation, physical attributes, physical or mental ability or disability, ancestry, political party preference, military affiliation, socioeconomic status, or familial status. Inquiries or grievances may be directed to Kenneth Morris, Jr., Equity Director, 306 SW School Street, P.O. Box 189, Ankeny, IA, 50021-0189, (515) 965-9600, [kenneth.morris@ankenyschools.org](mailto:kenneth.morris@ankenyschools.org); or the Iowa Civil Rights Commission, Grimes State Office Building, Des Moines, IA, 50319-0201, (515) 281-4121; or the U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights, 500 West Madison Street, Suite 1475, Chicago, IL 60661.