



Definition of College and Career Readiness in Ankeny Community Schools

Developed in spring 2015 in collaboration between ACSD College & Career Readiness Task Force and the Ankeny Economic Workforce Development Committee: College and Career Readiness is the state of being fully prepared for a lifetime of personal success beyond high school, regardless of pathway after high school graduation.

College and Career Ready students demonstrate critical thinking, complex communication, creativity, collaboration, flexibility and adaptability, productivity and accountability, as defined by the [Universal Constructs found at this link](#). Additionally, students are self-directed and demonstrate grit, the desire to persevere despite the obstacles that may stand in their way.

Where did the name, Orbis, come from?

The name, Orbis, came from students. In the spring of 2017, secondary students from both feeder systems engaged in a process to name the PK-12 college and career readiness programming in Ankeny Schools. Ultimately, they selected *Orbis*, which is the Latin term for *compass*. Their justification was that each student - as he/she goes through the system of elementary, middle, and high school - follows his/her own compass in navigating their lifetime of personal success. Once the students determined the name, Orbis, they designed the logo, specifically making the "O" in Orbis a compass.

STEM BEST Grant Recipient

Ankeny Community School District's college and career program, Orbis, has been named a STEM BEST® ([click here for the link to the STEM BEST website](#)) 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 2017 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."

Orbis Project-Based Experiences

Opportunities are underway for teams of high school students to engage in authentic project-based experiences in partnership with the workforce where they are solving real problems. If your organization is interested in participating, [click here to access the Project Intake Form](#).

Examples of projects underway include the following: technology project for Iowa Association of Municipal Utilities, video project for WHO/Channel 13, publishing project for a local author, and strategic gardening project with Iowa State University and Cherry Glen Farms.

Check out the Orbis opportunities available to high school students as they are signing up for 2018-19 courses:

- [Orbis Project-Based Experience](#)
- [Karl Transportation and Business Academy](#)
- [Secretary of State](#)

Orbis Leadership Team

A stakeholder committee meets quarterly for the purpose of providing input on Orbis work underway, including alignment with HF2392 ([click here to go to the HF2392 website](#)). This team consists of students, teachers, administrators, parents, and business representatives. [Click here to access the agenda and minutes from our November 13th meeting](#).

Upcoming meetings are scheduled for the following dates:

- Monday, January 8, 2018
 - 4:15-5:30 / Northview 1708/1709
- Monday, April 9, 2018
 - 4:15-5:30 / Northview 1708/1709

If you are interested in serving on this team, please contact Dr. Jill Urich at jill.urich@ankenyschools.org.

Project Intake Form

Does your organization have a problem to solve? In other words, on your “top 10” project list, what are project numbers eight, nine, and ten? What if we were able to engage a team of students in your project work? Submit your problem (project idea) here at <http://tinyurl.com/Orbisproject>! If you do not currently have a project idea but would like to discuss possibilities for future involvement, please contact Dr. Jill Urich at jill.urich@ankenyschools.org.



ANKENY
COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT



Dr. Jill Urich
Director of College and Career Readiness

District Office
306 SW School Street
Ankeny, Iowa 50023

P: 515.965.9600 F: 515.965.4234
www.ankenyschools.org

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