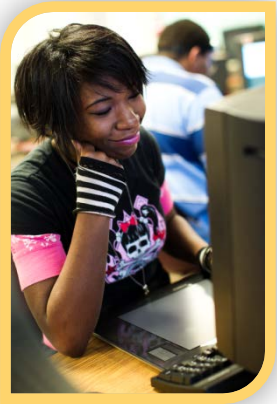
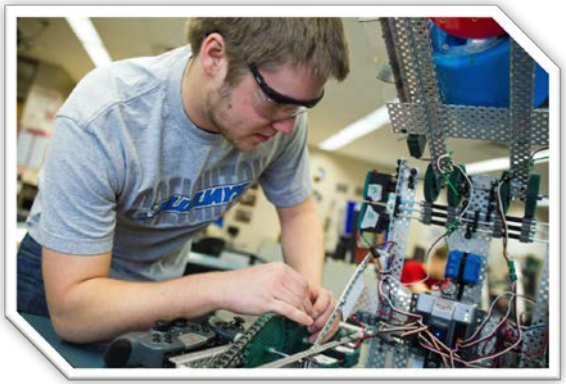
Career Education and Career Academies



Focus:

College *And* Career Readiness



Nebraska Career Education

How do we get there?

Focus on:

- **Career Readiness Skills**
- **Academic and Technical Knowledge and Skill**
- **Work-Based Experiences**
- **New Models of Education delivery**

One Answer:
Career Academies

A 40-Year Proven Model for College and Career Readiness

- **Started in Philadelphia**
- **Research-based model of education**
- **National Career Academy Collation Standards**

Nebraska Career Education

Nebraska's Academies

Different Models:

- Metro Community College - 1996
- National Academy Foundation Programs
- High School Based Academies – Omaha Area
- Community College Early College Models

Nebraska Career Education

Career Academies Work!

Research* from 1984 - present

- Lower drop out rate
- Increased on-time graduation rate
- Increased attendance, credits earned
- Decreased discipline issues
- More likely to participate in extracurricular activities and volunteerism
- Significantly increased postsecondary enrollment and completion rates

*Research based on academies following NCAC Standards

A Nebraska Example…

Subscale	Academy Student Mean	Non-Academy Student Mean	Statistically Significant?
Teacher Relationships	3.74	3.25	YES!
Peer Support	3.65	3.37	YES!
Family Support	4.31	3.96	YES!
School Environment	3.61	3.17	YES
Classroom Environment	4.13	3.53	YES
Relevance of School Work	3.64	3.21	YES
Real World Application	4.50	4.06	YES

A Nebraska Example…

In this example, academy students:

- Reported higher levels of engagement than non-academy students.
- Saw greater relevance and real-world application in their courses
- Experienced stronger relationships with their teachers
- Saw a clear connection to career goals

Why a Rule?

Legislature wanted quality control

- Consistent definition of “career academy”
- Required components of an academy
- Quality standards of operation
- Data to be used for evaluation

Why a Rule?

Intent:

Ensure quality career academy programs across the state and to establish an evaluative process to measure effectiveness of career academies.

Rule 47 Career Academies

A career academy program is a sequence of credit-bearing academic and career technical education courses which reflect a career cluster selected in response to local, regional or state employment needs and demand for expertise.

Rule 47 Career Academies

Important to remember:

- Academies are an enhancement, not a replacement of the student's high school experience.
- Students
  - ✓ Are prepared for academies while in middle/high school
  - ✓ Are immersed in the culture of the academy
  - ✓ Learn with a focus on relevant career applications
  - ✓ Partner with employers/postsecondary education

Rule 47

- Step by step procedures for implementing a career academy
- Expectations for operation
- Data/report for evaluation

Rule 47

❶ Conduct a planning process

Career Academy Program Taskforce:

(must have appropriate representation)

- Evaluate current offerings
- Align to workforce and economic needs
- Academy components
- Work-Based learning/CSO/Certifications
- Align to postsecondary
- Partnerships

Rule 47

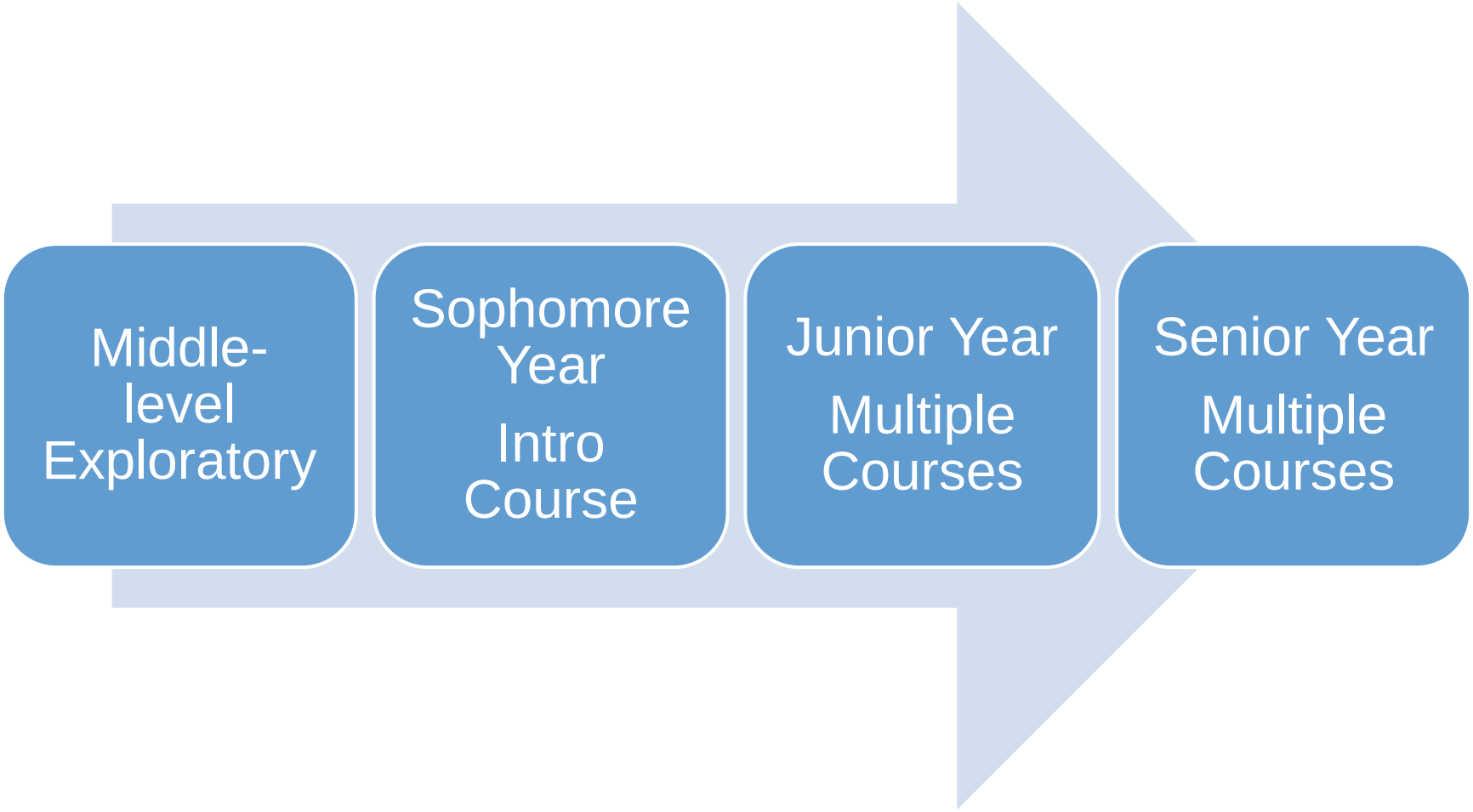
❷ Curriculum

- Career exploration course *(can be middle school)*

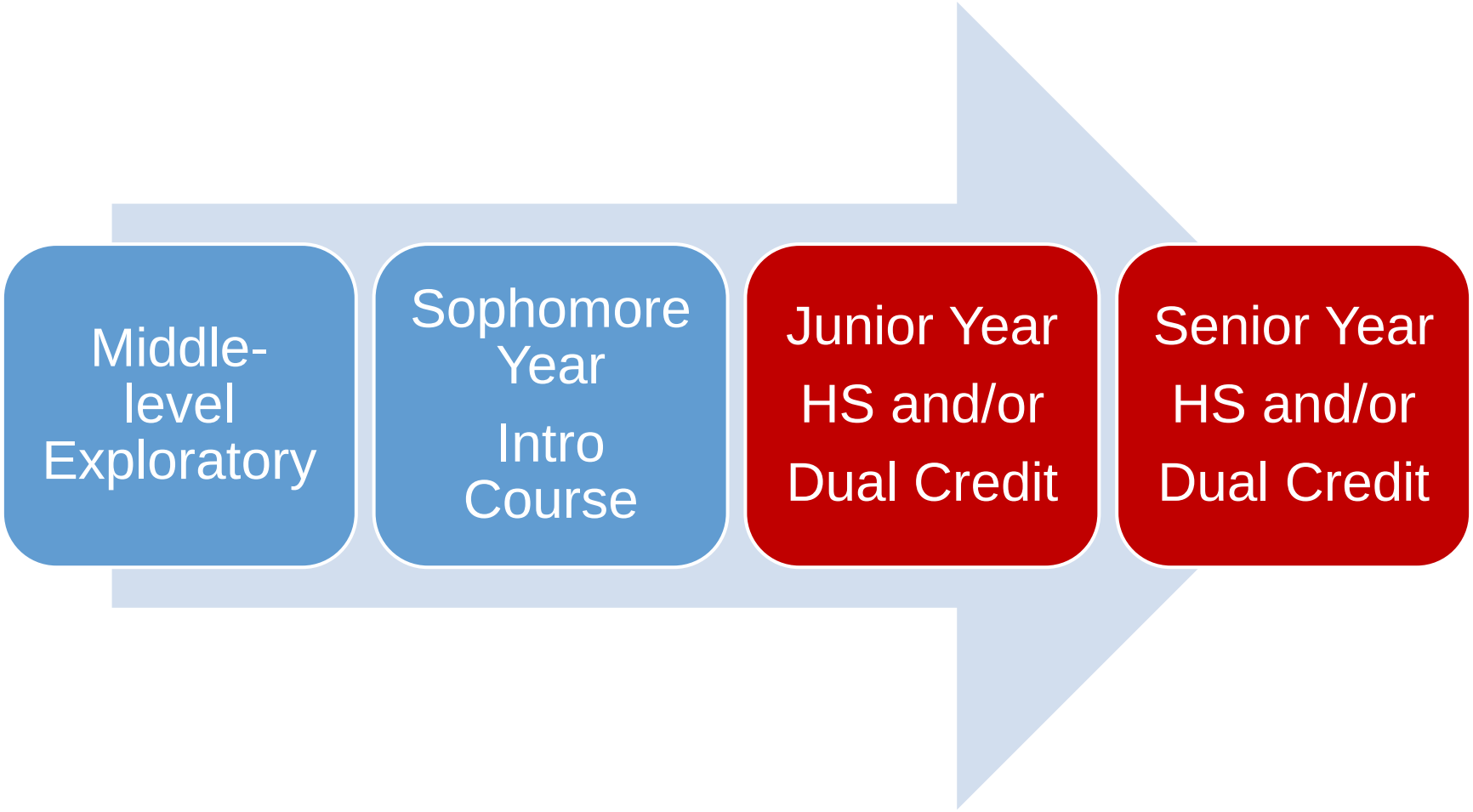
State Model Program of Study:

- Introductory course in the career academy area
- Minimum of two courses in career academy area
  (typically 3-4 over the course of two years)
- At least one aligned academic core course
- Courses may be dual-credit

POS: High School Credit Only



POS: High School & Dual Credit



Rule 47

❷ Curriculum

At least one core academic course taught in context of the career academy program

Core Academic course:

Mathematics, Science, English/Language Arts or Social Studies

Examples:

- Separate section where available
- Differentiated learning within a class
- High school credit and/or dual credit

Rule 47

❷ Curriculum

Career Guidance

- Career exploration
- Career assessments
- Personal Learning Plans

Career Student Organization

DECA, FBLA, FCCLA, FEA, FFA, HOSA, SkillsUSA

Rule 47

❷ Curriculum

Work-Based Learning

- Internships/Apprenticeships
- Job Shadow/Visits/Interactions
- Other

Recruitment

- Process determined locally

Endorsed Teachers

Rule 47

❸ Participation

- Voluntary participation
- Student recruitment process
- Parental information

Rule 47

4 Advisory Board

- May be the same as planning task force
- May be CTE Advisory Committee
- 51% business members
- May be shared:
  - Regional taskforce between several districts
  - Community college

Rule 47

❺ Application

On-line application through NDE portal

- Flexible dates as we get started
- Approval granted fall before starting academy
- First year will be 2015-2016
- Meet requirements of the Rule

Rule 47

❺ On-Going Approval

- On-line annual report through NDE portal
- Data pulled from NSSRS
  - will only reflect Rule 47 Career Academies
- Data used to report on effectiveness of Rule 47 Career Academies

Rule 47

Potential State Funding

- Incentive money for career academies
  - Cover additional costs of running an academy
- Cost of industry certifications
- Cost of dual credit tuition

Must all be on the same page to get funding

Rule 47

Questions

NEBRASKA
DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION

Thank you for your time!

For more information contact:

Rich Katt
State Director, Nebraska Career Education
rich.katt@nebraska.gov 402-471-4808

Erika Volker
Director, Partnerships for Innovation
erika@partnershipsforinnovation.org 402-305-9480