

# Cedar Falls Schools



**CENTER FOR ADVANCED PROFESSIONAL STUDIES**

**UPDATE FOR CEDAR FALLS BOARD OF EDUCATION  
DECEMBER 12, 2016**

# Background



- Introduced to CAPS model program – Waukee and Blue Valley, Kansas – visits in December 2014
- Visit to IowaBIG program in Cedar Rapids – December 2014
- Invitations to local businesses to introduce concept and gauge interest – February 2015
- Decision to explore implementation of CAPS in 2016-17 school year with 3 potential “strands”
  - ✦ Engineering
  - ✦ Computer Science
  - ✦ Information Technology

# Background, Cont.



- Wrote and received a start up grant with assistance of CF Schools Foundation
- Met with Cedar Valley Chamber and Alliance for support and assistance in identifying and approaching potential business to serve as hosts
- Met with Hawkeye Community College and UNI representatives to provide overview and potential for college credit and smooth transitions into college programs
- Met with a number of local businesses within each strand to discuss CAPS and possible options for participating

# Background, Cont.



- Traveled to Waukee with team of local business representatives, along with Hawkeye Community College and CFHS staff to see first-hand their APEX program and have face-to-face discussions regarding CAPS

# CAPS Overview



- Provide students with career readiness skills by providing real world experiences outside the regular classroom in high skilled career areas.
- Opportunities for students to learn from and work directly with mentors from local businesses.
- Provide service for business partners – students completing projects that benefit the business while identifying potential future employees
- Win-Win for schools and business partners

# CAPS Structure



- 10-15 students (11<sup>th</sup> & 12 graders) enrolled in each strand
- Course will be 3-period block for 1 semester (approximately 2 1/2 hours per day)
- Curriculum developed in collaboration with Hawkeye Community College, CFHS staff, and business partners
- Classes will meet at a local host business. Mentors from the host business and other local businesses will assist and guide students during the course
- A CFHS teacher and host business employees would team teach the course. Mentors from other local businesses could also assist students
- High school and college credit awarded through HCC

# Current status



- Created CAPS logo and overview and FAQ brochure
- Joined CAPS Network – Blue Valley support network
- Met multiple times with HCC staff to identify and answer questions regarding curriculum, accreditation, and instructor requirements
- Established a CAPS Advisory Board to oversee and provide ongoing input and guidance

# Cedar Falls Schools

## Center for Advanced Professional Studies (CAPS)

### Advisory Board 2016-17

<b>NAME</b>	<b>POSITION</b>	<b>AFFILIATION</b>
Andy Pattee	Superintendent of Schools	Cedar Falls Schools
Dan Conrad	Director of Secondary Education	Cedar Falls Schools
Brian Unruh	Coordinator of Instructional Technology	Cedar Falls Schools
Kenton Swartley	Community Partner & STEM Facilitator	Cedar Falls Schools
Janelle Darst	Coordinator of Communications	Cedar Falls Schools
Jason Wedgbury	High School Principal	Cedar Falls High School
Amy Denholm	School Counselor	Cedar Falls High School
Erin Gardner	School Counselor	Cedar Falls High School
Thomas Mueller	Dean, Center for Learning & Academic Services	Hawkeye Community College
Cunthia Bottrell	Dean, Business, Math & Sciences	Hawkeye Community College
Shelly Christensen	Associate Director of Admissions	Hawkeye Community College
Danny Laudick	Director of Talent Solutions	Greater Cedar Valley Chamber & Alliance
Rhonda Hall	Business Services Representative	Cedar Valley IowaWORKS
Josh Schmidt	Human Resources Director	Viking Pump
Angie Steffan	Scrum Master	Far Reach Technologies
Jeff Becker	Chief Information Officer	Lincoln Savings Bank



# Next steps



- Secure a business liaison to connect and recruit mentors and potential business partners
- Determine CFHS staff to serve as instructor for spring semester 2017– working through certification
- Finalize strand(s) to be launched first (Engineering, Computer Science)
- Finalize course outline and curriculum for each course
- Meet with students registered for CAPS to provide outline course details and expectations
- Work out details with host businesses and mentors

# CAPS Beyond 2016-17



- Explore extended opportunities as follow-up to CAPS experiences (Internships)
- Add strands – Information Technology, Teacher Education, Medical Careers, others
- Continued collaboration with HCC, UNI, and Waterloo Schools – Transitions, potential sharing of programs