



**BARKER CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**

[Debra Lee Dearborn](mailto:ddearborn@barkerksd.net)  
1628 Quaker Road  
Barker, NY 14012  
Phone (716) 795-3338  
Fax (716) 795-3394

# Press Release

Contact: Debra Lee Dearborn  
Phone: (716) 795-3338  
E-Mail: [ddearborn@barkerksd.net](mailto:ddearborn@barkerksd.net)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Date: February 17, 2012  
Photos: 1

---

BARKER NATIONAL ACADEMY FOUNDATION YEAR OF PLANNING UNDERWAY



Barker Central School District teacher Karin Menz, Principal, Barbara Converso, and School Counselor, Audra Lakeman meet to discuss the next step in the National Academy Foundation (NAF) Year of Planning. The team has been reviewing and selecting curriculum, developing an application and intake process for students under the advisement of the National Academy Foundation. "This program will be inclusive to all students at the Barker Central School District", stated Principal Converso. In addition to the staff members shown,

the National Academy Foundation Board of Directors and Design Team, students in Advanced Advertising and Marketing classes have been involved in the creation of brochures, marketing and other phases of the curriculum development.

One goal of the Year of Planning is to align current classes more with academy standards to include as many students as possible. Students who attend BOCES will also be able to receive academy program credit.

The National Academy Foundation is a national program that focuses on preparing young people for college and career success. The Barker Central School District Academy of Finance will provide opportunities, paid internships, a National Academy Foundation diploma upon graduation, career and college readiness skills, as well as possible college credits upon completion of the program.

Business partners, who currently include: HSBC Bank, Singer Farms Naturals, State Farm Insurance, Ulrich Development, Niagara County Community College, Niagara University and Niagara County Employment and Training will take part in classroom presentations, job shadowing, work based learning experiences, and internships. Additional business partners are welcome.

All ninth grade students will take Introduction to Career and Finance for 20 weeks. After the introductory course, students can apply to the Academy of Finance. Throughout high school, students in the Academy of Finance will take a variety of finance related courses. Internships will be set up between their junior and senior

year. Students who have successfully completed the course will earn a National Academy Foundation Academy of Finance diploma upon graduation. This program will also help students develop readiness skills for career or college. They may also earn additional Niagara University credit upon enrollment into their business department.

This opportunity has been provided to Barker Central School District students through a grant from Mr. Lowell McAdam, a former graduate of Barker Central School District, who is the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Verizon Communications. Verizon Communications is also a partner of the National Academy Foundation, which boasts more than 500 academies. Mr. McAdam feels a deep commitment to invest in the future of Barker graduates through development of Academies from the National Academy Foundation.

Parents of current eighth grade students at Barker Central School District are invited to attend a High School Planning workshop on February 29, 2012 from 7 - 8 PM, which will include additional information regarding the Barker Central School District Academy of Finance.

Members of the National Academy Foundation will make a site visit to Barker on March 19<sup>th</sup> to see what has been accomplished during the Year of Planning.

Additional activities have also been planned, which include a reception for potential business partners and the community to be held on March 19<sup>th</sup>. The official Academy launch, which will be open

to potential business partners and the community, will take place on May 1<sup>st</sup>.

A website has been set up to keep interested parties updated on the status of the year of planning, which is currently ahead of schedule. Updates are available at [www.barkerccd.net/naf](http://www.barkerccd.net/naf).