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## **Press Release - For Immediate Release**

### **Career Academy Groundbreaking Norfolk High School March 8, 2017 10:00 a.m.**

Norfolk High School will be hosting a groundbreaking ceremony on 3/8/2017 at 10:00 a.m. for the Career Academy addition that will be constructed at NHS this summer. This groundbreaking ceremony will be hosted with the Norfolk Area Chamber of Commerce, the Chamber Ambassadors, local donors and advisors of the Career Academy project, and Career Academy students and instructors. Everyone is invited to join us and more details regarding the ceremony can be found on the NPS website.

Career Academies are an exciting addition to the offerings at Norfolk High School. The 13 different career and college readiness academies will be fully implemented by August 2017 and will focus on Automotive, Welding, Construction, Agriculture - Animal Science, Agriculture - Plant Science, Health Sciences, Information Technology, Business Administration, Marketing, Finance, Early Childhood Development and Culinary Arts. The mission of the Career Academies is to equip students with the skills to be successful in the career or college choices they pursue, to enable them to qualify for high skill, high demand, high paying jobs, and to provide a quality workforce for local business and industry.

The Norfolk Public Schools Foundation has partnered with Norfolk Public Schools to raise the \$1.8 million dollars needed for the 3,554 ft addition at Norfolk High School and to fund the updated equipment needed to provide a quality education in these 13 different career fields. Sarah Dittmer, Executive Director of the Norfolk Public Schools Foundation said, *"We have been very encouraged by the response of our donors. The project fits the needs of our students while also filling some gaps in the workforce for our local employers. People have been eager to help us implement this project and have generously given to make it a reality because they see the student and community impact. The fundraising campaign is nearing its final phase and we hope to reach our goal soon. There is still a need for more donations to make the full campaign a reality. We encourage people to reach out to us for more information if they would like to partner with us in this exciting project."*

Jake Luhr, Norfolk High School, Principal, told us, *"This is an exciting time at Norfolk High School. We are eager to see all the opportunities the Career Academies will bring to our students and our community. Work based learning opportunities such as job shadowing, guest speakers, and internships will offer each student the opportunity to explore their area of interest, develop industry mentors, and research all their options prior to high school graduation. The Career Academies will give students a great advantage in today's employment environment, whether they enter the workforce immediately upon graduation, or if they pursue a post-secondary education. The mission statement of Norfolk Public Schools is 'to prepare all students to pursue their goals for the future.' Career Academies are a great way to meet that mission."*

*For additional information please contact:*

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