

Smithfield High School
90 Pleasant View Ave.
Smithfield, RI 02917
401-949-2050
www.shsaof.org



Mrs. Ann Campbell-Andrews
Business Department Chair

Mr. Stephen Rocco
Academy of Finance Director

Dear Sir/Madame,

I am writing to tell you about a successful career preparation program that is designed to improve the quality of education in our nation's high schools while increasing the number of qualified students who are aware of the opportunities in our growing global economy. I ask that you take a leadership role in this important effort by joining Smithfield High School's Academy of Finance Advisory Board. The program was adopted here in 1998 and has enjoyed continued success because of the commitment of community partners like you.

The Academy of Finance is one of several Academy programs established by the National Academy Foundation (NAF), <http://www.naf.org>, to promote educational excellence. The NAF model links the resources of business, education, and community in an effort to prepare students for the work force and for higher education. Sanford I. Weill, Chairman and CEO, Travelers Group, serves as Chairman and Vernon E. Jordan, Jr., Senior Partner, Akin, Gump, Strauss Hauer & Feld, Jonathon S. Linen, Vice President, American Express, and The Honorable William E. Brock, President, The Brock Group serve as Vice Chairmen of the National Academy Foundation Board of Directors.

There are 640 NAF Academies already existing in over 40 states and there are several academies located internationally as well. The program consists of a comprehensive academic program conducted in the years of high school, and includes a paid student internship. The Academy approach focuses on long-term goals and successfully bridges the gap between the classroom and the workplace.

Advisory Board responsibilities include the following:

- Attend about 8 meetings per year here at the high school media center.
- Providing industry expertise to support Academy curriculum.
- Assisting in student recruitment when possible.
- Providing paid internships for Academy students.
- Encouraging other community businesses to establish paid internships for students.
- Serving as an advocate for the Academy to educational, political, and business communities.
- Assisting in garnering financial support for program activities, scholarships and other special projects.

It is critical that we work together to ensure that the next generation of employees and leaders are well prepared to confront the social and economic issues of the future. I believe that your insight, expertise, and concern for the future of your industry will contribute to the success of the NAF Academy program goals.

Please come to our next Advisory Board meeting as my guest to gain a better perspective of Smithfield High School and our Academy of Finance or simply visit us at: <http://www.shsaof.org>.

If you cannot commit now, but know someone who can, please feel free to refer them to me. If you have any further questions or would like to accept my invitation please call me at the above number or email me at SRocco@smithfield-ps.org.

Sincerely,

Stephen J. Rocco