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# Sioux City Journal

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## SIUXLAND EDUCATION

# HANDS-ON EXPERIENCES



CAITLIN YAMADA, SIOUX CITY JOURNAL

Sioux City Junior Kenleigh Bushmann (right) practicing putting out a simulated car fire at the Sergeant Bluff training facility on May 9 as part of her Sioux City Career Academy fire science courses. The academy offers area students 37 pathways with 175 unique courses.

## Career Academy helps students prepare for life after graduation

CAITLIN YAMADA  
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SIOUX CITY — The Sioux City Career Academy offers middle and high students the opportunity to explore specific career opportunities and build skills to get ahead in the job market.

With more than 35 different career pathways, combining academic knowledge and occupational hands-on learning, the career academy allows students to start building skills for a career earlier than most. Currently, about 1,600 students are participating.

Eric Kilburn, Sioux City Career Acad-

emy principal, said students graduate prepared to make post-secondary decisions.

“The Sioux City Career Academy model has been incredibly successful, and we look forward to expanding it even more through enhanced internship opportunities and the new construction trades building,” said Kilburn, who was recently selected as the new career academy principal, succeeding Katie Towler, who served as the principal since 2018.

### History of the Academy

The idea of a Sioux City Career Academy started in 2008, right after the hiring of

then-district Superintendent Paul Gausman.

Gausman said the district had two career-related programs at the time: a health science and a construction program, but both were not seeing the enrollment the district hoped for. They were also located in the Central Campus Annex with the district administrative offices, an aging facility that was largely unused, Gausman said.

The school board at that time wanted to move the central office, find a new home for the district’s kitchen and create a career academy structure.

Please see **ACADEMY**, Page A6

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### The Mini

Doesn't the State of Iowa have more important bills to pay than a special session? Can't they accomplish what they want this winter instead of blowing taxpayer money? — **DENNIS PINE, SIOUX CITY**

**Weather**  
Sun and some clouds  
**High 83 • Low 64**  
FORECAST • A12

**Inside**  
WEATHER A12 COMICS D5, D7  
SPORTS C1 LIVELY D1  
OBITUARIES C8 NATIONAL B1



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