



News Release

1331 Franklin, S.E. • P.O. Box 117 • Grand Rapids, Michigan 49501-0117 • (616) 819-2000 • FAX: (616) 819-2104 • www.grps.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – October 15, 2018

Contact: John Helmholdt, Executive Director of Communications & External Affairs
Work 616-819-2149; Cell 616-481-2152, helmholdtj@grps.org

GRPS, Industry Leaders to Announce New High School Academy of Hospitality & Tourism at Press Conference Tuesday

Superintendent Teresa Weatherall Neal, along with key leaders from the hospitality and tourism industry, will be announcing the launch of a new college-career prep academy – the Academy of Hospitality and Tourism.

Hospitality and tourism is one of the largest industries in the world and the second largest in Michigan. The greater Grand Rapids area has experienced explosive growth in hospitality and tourism with significant demand for talent to fill the countless career opportunities.

Leaders from Experience Grand Rapids, Grand Valley State University's Department of Hospitality and Tourism Management, AHC+Hospitality, and other industry partners are collaborating with Grand Rapids Public Schools to launch the academy. It will open in fall 2019 at Ottawa Hills High School, starting with 9th grade and growing a grade each year to become a 9-12 grade.

The innovative academy model will use NAF curriculum and offer career-themed instruction that incorporates leading industry practices. Industry leaders will serve on an advisory board to inform curricula, which will offer work-based learning experiences, internships, and apprenticeships.

Theme School applications are required. Seats are limited and the application deadline is January 31st. Parents can learn more at the School Choice Expo & Fall Harvest Festival on Thursday, October 18, 2018 from 4:00pm to 6:00pm at Gerald R. Ford Academic Center.

WHAT: Press Conference announcing the Academy of Hospitality & Tourism

WHEN: Tuesday, October 16, 2018
10:30 am

MORE



News Release

1331 Franklin, S.E. • P.O. Box 117 • Grand Rapids, Michigan 49501-0117 • (616) 819-2000 • FAX: (616) 819-2104 • www.grps.org

WHERE: Cygnus27 in Amway Grand Plaza Hotel – 27th Floor
187 Monroe Ave NW
Grand Rapids, MI 49503

WHO: Teresa Weatherall Neal, Superintendent of Schools
Doug Small, President/CEO, Experience Grand Rapids
Dr. George Grant, Jr., Dean of the College of Community and Public Service /
Department of Hospitality and Tourism Management, Grand Valley State University
Rick Winn, President, AHC+Hospitality
Jeffrey Burns, Assistant General Manager, The Kitchen by Wolfgang Puck, Amway
Grand Plaza Hotel and GRPS/Creston High School alumnus

###