

Riverside Academy Wins 2020 Pacesetter Award

School honored for ensuring students receive support to graduate college and career ready

June 30, 2020 — Riverside Academy in Buffalo, New York, is the winner of a 2020 Gene Bottoms Pacesetter School Award from the Southern Regional Educational Board. Riverside Academy will be honored on July 6, 2021, at SREB's Making Schools Work Conference in Nashville, Tennessee, due to the cancellation of the 2020 conference in New Orleans, Louisiana.

Pacesetter School Awards recognize schools that are implementing one of SREB's Making Schools Work school improvement frameworks and are achieving success in meeting bold goals related to increases in student graduation rates, readiness for college and careers, and credential attainment.

Riverside Academy implements [High Schools That Work](#), SREB's school improvement design for high schools. Located within walking distance of the Niagara River, Riverside is one of Buffalo Schools' innovative new high schools, offering CTE programs that prepare students for careers in the "blue economy" — sustainable commercial and recreational fisheries, tourism and recreation, and coastal restoration. Instruction focuses on the viability and economic, recreational and ecological health of the Niagara River and the region.

For the past three years, the Academy's staff have received training in [SREB's Powerful Practices in literacy](#), [math](#), and [project-based learning](#) and advisory — all are systems of support to prepare students for college and careers.

Riverside uses its schoolwide advisory program to support students to become college and career ready. Instruction and advisement are scaffolded by grade level and use project-based problem-solving to help students own their career plans. The program is student-centered and designed to support student participation and build relationships between students and their advisers as students have the same adviser each year.

SREB's [Making Schools Work Conference](#) is held annually and provides educators with opportunities to participate in professional development, network with colleagues from across the country and build school and district leadership capacity.

The Southern Regional Education Board works with states and educators to improve education at every level, from early childhood through postsecondary education. Learn more about SREB at sreb.org.

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