



GOOD HOPE COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS ACADEMY

Prospective Faculty Information Guide

Wellness & Family Capacity Building

**Wellness people can experience.
Skills families can use.**

Welcome to the Academy

The Good Hope Community Connections Academy is a customized, experiential Wellness and Family Capacity Building initiative designed to connect students and families with practical knowledge, meaningful experiences, and real-world expertise.

The Academy was developed around a simple idea: wellness and family capacity are strengthened when people have opportunities to learn skills they can actually use.

Rather than limiting wellness to traditional health education or family engagement to informational workshops, the Academy creates interactive experiences that may incorporate agriculture, food security, nutrition, physical wellness, family connection, entrepreneurship, financial literacy, career exploration, practical life skills, and exposure to community professionals.

Good Hope serves as the program architect and coordinating organization. Our Academy Faculty consists of professionals, practitioners, entrepreneurs, educators, skilled specialists, and community experts whose knowledge can be transformed into engaging experiences for students and families.

What We Mean by “Faculty”

Academy Faculty are not traditional classroom faculty, and we are not assembling a speaker bureau. Faculty members bring specialized knowledge, professional experience, practical skills, or lived expertise that can contribute to one or more Academy experiences.

- Facilitate a hands-on activity
- Demonstrate a practical skill
- Lead an interactive workshop
- Introduce students to a profession or industry
- Facilitate a family experience
- Teach families a skill they can continue using at home
- Participate in a career or entrepreneurship experience
- Collaborate with another faculty member on an interdisciplinary program
- Lead an in-person or virtual session
- Contribute to a multi-session Academy series

The goal is not simply to talk about a subject. Whenever possible, participants should experience it, practice it, discuss it, create something, solve something, or leave knowing how to do something they could not do before.

The Academy’s Four Pillars

Grow • Nourish • Sustain

This pillar explores the relationship between food, environment, self-sufficiency, family wellness, and community resilience.

- Farming and gardening
- Seed-to-harvest learning
- Food production
- Animal husbandry and responsible animal care
- Food security
- Nutrition
- Healthy cooking
- Food budgeting and smart shopping
- Food preservation
- Reducing food waste
- Composting
- Sustainable living
- Agriculture and animal-science careers

Potential faculty may include gardening professionals, farmers, animal-care specialists, dietitians, chefs, environmental educators, agricultural entrepreneurs, and related specialists.

Healthy Me • Healthy Family

This pillar focuses on the interconnected physical, emotional, and practical habits that contribute to individual and family wellness.

- Physical activity
- Cycling and outdoor wellness
- Nutrition
- Mindfulness
- Stress management
- Emotional regulation
- Healthy routines
- Sleep and hydration
- Resilience
- Goal setting
- Healthy cooking
- Preventive wellness education

Potential faculty may include health professionals, dietitians, fitness or cycling professionals, wellness practitioners, and others whose expertise appropriately supports healthy living.

Connect • Play • Belong

Wellness also depends on relationships. This pillar creates experiences designed to strengthen family connection, communication, belonging, and positive relationships.

- Interactive family game nights
- Parent-child challenges
- Cooperative activities
- Communication exercises

- Family wellness nights
- Team-building
- Cultural experiences
- Community-building activities
- Shared learning experiences
- Activities families can continue at home

These programs should feel different from a parent sitting through a presentation. We want families participating together.

Explore • Build • Launch

Wellness and family capacity also include having the knowledge, confidence, resources, and exposure necessary to prepare for the future.

- Career exploration
- Entrepreneurship
- Business ownership
- Financial literacy
- Practical money skills
- Skilled trades
- Cosmetology and beauty-industry careers
- Healthcare careers
- Agriculture and animal-science careers
- Alternative postsecondary pathways
- Leadership
- Decision-making
- Goal setting
- Independence
- Practical life readiness

Potential faculty may include business owners, cosmetology professionals, healthcare professionals, tradespeople, entrepreneurs, financial professionals, and other community experts.

What Makes an Academy Experience Different?

We are looking for experiences, not lectures.

Instead of: “Come talk to students about farming.”

Farm-to-Family: Where Our Food Comes From

Students explore how food is produced, participate in a hands-on agricultural activity, learn about responsible animal care, discuss food security, and connect agriculture to careers and household wellness.

Instead of: “Have a dietitian speak about healthy eating.”

Nourish & Thrive: Feeding a Family Well

Families work through realistic meal-planning decisions, compare food choices, discuss nutrition and food budgets, and leave with strategies they can use at home.

Instead of: “Have an entrepreneur speak about owning a salon.”

From Skill to Business

Students explore how a professional skill can become a career and ultimately a business. They examine training pathways, entrepreneurship, customer service, financial considerations, and alternatives to the traditional four-year college route.

That transformation from expertise into experience is what Good Hope will help faculty develop.

You Do Not Have to Design the Program Alone

A prospective faculty member does not need to arrive with a finished curriculum. We want to understand the expertise you bring and then work with you to shape it into a structured Academy experience.

What do you know?

What can you teach?

What can you demonstrate?

What experience could you give a student or family?

What do you wish young people or families understood about your field?

A faculty module may identify:

- Intended audience
- Age/grade range
- Wellness or family-capacity objective
- Participant experience
- Learning outcomes
- Session length
- Group size
- Materials and supplies
- In-person or virtual format
- Staffing requirements
- Opportunities for family participation
- Take-home resources or activities
- Potential adaptations for different age groups

One Idea Can Become Several Experiences

Faculty expertise does not necessarily have to fit into only one pillar. A registered dietitian, for example, could contribute to Grow • Nourish • Sustain through food security and meal planning and to Healthy Me • Healthy Family through nutrition and healthy routines.

An agricultural professional could connect farming to food security, environmental wellness, entrepreneurship, careers, animal science, and family self-sufficiency. An entrepreneur could introduce high-school students to business ownership while also helping families understand financial literacy and alternative career pathways.

The Academy is intentionally interdisciplinary.

Who We Serve

Elementary School: Explore & Grow

Hands-on discovery, curiosity, healthy habits, responsibility, confidence, family participation, and introductory exposure.

Middle School: Discover & Build

Identity, skill development, decision-making, confidence, exploration, teamwork, practical knowledge, and early career exposure.

High School: Launch & Lead

Career readiness, entrepreneurship, leadership, independence, financial and life skills, professional exposure, and planning for adulthood.

Programs may also be designed specifically for families or parent-child participation.

How Opportunities May Work

- One-time experiences
- Multi-session series
- Recurring programming
- Family nights
- Special events
- School-wide experiences
- Hands-on demonstrations
- Workshops
- Community expert experiences
- Career exploration events
- Virtual sessions
- Collaborative programs involving multiple Academy faculty members

Not every faculty member will participate in every program or school. Faculty opportunities will depend on school needs, program fit, age group, scheduling, funding, requested services, Good Hope's program design, and applicable requirements.

Important: Participation in the Academy faculty network does not guarantee assignments, hours, or compensation. Specific engagements and compensation arrangements will be established separately when applicable.

Professional & School Requirements

Because Academy experiences may occur within public schools and involve students and families, professionalism and compliance are essential. Depending on the engagement, faculty may be required to complete applicable:

- Background screening
- Fingerprinting
- Identification/badging requirements
- School or district onboarding
- Required documentation
- Scheduling and attendance procedures
- Confidentiality/privacy requirements
- Program reporting requirements

Good Hope will communicate applicable requirements before an individual is assigned to a program.

What We Are Looking for in Faculty

- Knowledgeable in their field
- Comfortable engaging with young people and/or families
- Reliable and professional
- Able to explain concepts in accessible language
- Enthusiastic about hands-on learning
- Willing to adapt expertise for different age groups
- Comfortable collaborating with other professionals
- Creative about turning knowledge into experiences
- Respectful of diverse families and communities
- Interested in making their expertise useful beyond their everyday professional setting

You do not have to be a traditional teacher to have something valuable to teach.

The Next Step

If the Academy feels like a good fit, the next conversation is about you. We want to learn about your professional background, expertise, interests, the populations you enjoy working with, and the type of experience you could imagine creating.

From there, we can identify which Academy pillar or pillars are the strongest fit and begin developing potential faculty modules that Good Hope may offer to participating schools.

**The Academy Faculty brings the expertise.
Good Hope builds the structure.
Together, we create experiences students and families can actually
use.**

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