



APPLICATION FORM

All applications must include the following information. Separate applications must be submitted for each eligible program. **Deadline: June 3, 2019.** Please include this application form with electronic entry. If you do not receive an email confirming receipt of your entry within 3 days of submission, please contact [Gage Harter](#).


PROGRAM INFORMATION

County: County of Henrico
Program Title: Specialty Center Partnership Shares Expertise
Program Category: Communications

CONTACT INFORMATION

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SIGNATURE OF COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR OR DEPUTY/ASSISTANT COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

Name: Anthony McDowell
Title: Deputy County Manager for Public Safety
Signature: 

Program Overview

All nine high schools within Henrico County Public Schools have specialty centers that enable students to specialize in particular areas of study. While this is a tremendous benefit to students, sometimes it is helpful for students in one specialty center to harness the expertise of students concentrating in another discipline. Two centers – the Advanced Career Education (ACE) Center at Highland Springs and the Center for Communications at Varina High School – paired to create a collaborative four-week project. The project enhanced the educational options for students at Varina's Center for Communications and Media Relations, using an instructor from the ACE Center. It also enabled the students at the ACE Center at Highland Springs High School to serve as mentors. The Center for Communications and Media Relations at Varina High School offers limited course work in audio production. Because students at Varina wanted the opportunity to learn the history and usability of audio production, the center created a partnership with the ACE Center that allowed one of the ACE Center's instructors to teach a four-week mini-session on the topic.

Problem/Challenge/Situation Faced by Locality

Henrico County Public Schools looks for ways to be more innovative and to offer students greater options. This partnership gave students from both schools the opportunity to collaborate. The students worked well together; students in the ACE Center's Radio Broadcasting class saw the partnership as a way to help others while showing off their hard-earned skills. They also became evangelists for the field, sharing information about an area they find interesting and worthwhile.

How Program Fulfilled Awards Criteria

By collaborating across specialty centers, taxpayer dollars were saved and the program for students was enhanced.

How Program Was Carried Out

The ACE Center at Highland Springs' Radio Broadcasting and Journalism program paired with Varina High School's Center for Communications and Media Relations to share expertise. The Center for Communications dives heavily into video editing and video production but lacks focus on audio and digital editing – one of the specialties of the radio broadcasting program at the ACE Center. The goal was to help Center for Communications students with coursework, projects and knowledge. In this partnership, a teacher in the Radio Broadcasting and Journalism program went to Varina to help with two four-week sessions so that all of their seniors could go through this abbreviated radio curriculum. One goal is to bring this instruction to Varina students early in their high school careers so they can use it through the duration of their years at Varina.

The students from the Center for Communications and Media Relations at Varina High School experienced a specially tailored 12-session radio curriculum that spanned four weeks. During these sessions, students learned about the history of radio, the characteristics of sound, studio layouts, and an introduction to station programming and digital editing. The class emphasized radio broadcasting competencies. Students used school-issued laptops, and downloaded and installed Adobe Audition audio software. The 12-session program involved seniors at the Center for Communications. Two field trips to the ACE Center at Highland Springs helped Varina students complete certain assigned projects. This enabled students from the Center for

Communications to have access to greater communications The Center for Communications will now be able to offer a more authentic experience in an integral part of communications.

The school division's role in implementation was facilitating meetings between the two schools to establish the feasibility of the program. Various school division employees came together, performed a practicability analysis and checked the alignment of the two curricula. By pairing the two courses, it became apparent that the quality of instruction would be enhanced significantly, benefitting Henrico County students. This in turn would better prepare students for college and/or our workforce.

Financing and Staffing

Varina High School's Center for Communications and Media Relations needed help in a particularly area, and the ACE Center was able to offer it at no cost to the school or school division. Without the partnership of the two schools, the Center for Communications would have had to hire a full- or part-time teacher. It is hard to put a price tag on the savings, but we believe the cost savings can be estimated to be in the \$10,000 range, with a savings of up to \$50,000 had a full-time instructor been hired.

Program Results

The Varina students taking the mini-session all produced an audio sample before leaving the course. This was their culminating project, based on what they learned throughout the four weeks of the course. In addition, the students within the Center for Communications now have audio knowledge to complement their video production, evidence of enhancement for the students and

for the overall program. Students can now produce higher-quality work and have more in-depth software knowledge. Furthermore, plans are underway to teach this material to ninth-grade students so they can use their audio skills throughout the duration of the four-year program.

The program identified an instructional need and solved it within the school division, without hiring additional instructors. The cost savings was significant as is the educational impact on students.

The fact that students will now be better prepared for work in the Center for Communications and Media Relations is testament to its success. Furthermore, because of the successful implementation, the students can use this expanded knowledge in their everyday lives. The goal is to continue the program and to reach students in earlier years, by giving them resources they can use throughout their four years in the program at the Center for Communications and Media Relations.

Brief Summary

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