



APPLICATION FORM

All applications must include the following information. Separate applications must be submitted for each eligible program. **Deadline: June 1, 2020.** 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: Building the Future, Brick by Brick

Program Category: Community and Economic Development

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: Victoria Davis

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SIGNATURE OF COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR OR DEPUTY/ASSISTANT COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

Name: Brandon Hinton

Title: Deputy County Manager for Administration

Signature: 

Program Overview

The masonry program at Henrico County Public Schools' ACE Center at Highland Springs consists of two years (Masonry 1 and 2), where students can earn up to six credits. The first-year masonry students learn to use, care for and handle safely the tools, machines, equipment and materials commonly used in the masonry trade.

Second-year students refine their techniques of bricklaying in construction of chimneys, steps and more complex projects. Throughout the course, neatness, good work habits and continued observation of safety rules are stressed to prepare the student mentally and physically for a successful career.

During this partnership with the construction firm James River Exteriors, students have the opportunity to learn from experts in the field while working on an actual house-project. This is an amazing experience for students because they are able to learn additional ways to approach bricklaying. They are able to learn tricks of the trade and are able to ask questions about the field and learn characteristics of a full-time masonry position.

Problem/Challenge/Situation Faced by Locality

The program helped satisfy several needs: a need by students for more real-world masonry experience, and a need by the business partner to cultivate potential employees. Students in the masonry program benefit from having experts in the field work alongside them, mentor them and teach them more in-depth information about the masonry field. In addition, this helped with the completion of our house-building project, an initiative where HCPS students help build an actual house that is sold upon completion. For James River Exteriors, the program helps satisfy the company's regular need for full-time staff members. At the ACE Center at Highland Springs, we

strive to provide relevant and engaging experiences that are practical and authentic for students. We have been fortunate to have a partnership with James River Exteriors to give students the experience of bricklaying in the field

How Program Fulfilled Awards Criteria

The program models cooperation and collaboration. Partnerships, like the one between Henrico County Public Schools' ACE Center and James River Exteriors, are what help our programs thrive and ensure the success of our students for years to come. Working hand-in-hand in the field with community members that lay brick every day helps students gain an appreciation for the field and insight that helps them make important career decisions. The program is a model for how community partners giving back to schools can make a significant difference for students as well as teachers.

How Program Was Carried Out

In the masonry program, students gain an understanding of areas such as job layout, mortar composition, and wall construction, using brick, block, stone, and concrete. This is accomplished through class assignments, discussions and practical application of skills learned in the major units of study. Students learn units of shop and job safety, blueprint reading, transit operation, masonry tools and equipment, general construction procedures, brick, block, stone, concrete construction, footings, and cost estimation of time, materials and labor. The program prepares students for entry-level employment in the masonry and construction fields.

The addition of the National Center for Construction Education and Research (NCCER) credentials to the ACE Center curriculum has enabled students to acquire industry-recognized credentials. The "Core Curriculum Introductory Craft Skills" textbook includes nine modules for

building foundation skills in construction. NCCER maintains a registry that provides transcripts, certificates and wallet-sized cards to students who have successfully completed a level of training within a craft in NCCER-standard curricula.

In addition, NCCER has textbooks that are industry-specific (for other trades such as carpentry and electricians). Masonry has Levels 1, 2 and 3. There are six modules in the Level 1 masonry.

Students develop the basic skills to use both hand and power tools — as well as machinery and equipment — related to brick and block masonry construction. Students focus on problem-solving and employability skills while performing entry-level brick masonry tasks.

Students further refine and expand their skills in machinery and equipment, to construct masonry wall systems typical of the 21st Century. They have opportunities to experience work-based learning. This involves laying “brick to the line” and construction of corners and walls of buildings. Additionally, students participate in the construction of a house each year while also earning a 10-hour OSHA certification. Major units of study include safety, care, and use of masonry tools; blueprint-reading and layout; mortar mixes; constructing walls and corners; constructing piers and chimneys; ornamental brick and block work; and estimating materials.

Upon successful completion of the two-year masonry program, students have career opportunities as a becoming a brick mason, block mason, concrete mason, tile mason, stonemason, mason tender, yard worker, or a job in material delivery or hardscapes such as pavers, retaining walls, etc.

The two ACE Centers have relationships with an array of employers that are excited about the education and training our students receive. Mac Beaton, director of the Henrico County Public Schools' Department of Career and Technical Education, goes above and beyond to give students who attend the ACE Centers opportunities to be certified and qualified to perform well for any employer that offers them employment.

Financing and Staffing

There are no costs to this program. The supplies to support this project were donated by James River Exteriors.

Program Results

Through this program, our students have had the opportunity to learn from experienced brick masons in an authentic setting. This partnership has helped five students gain jobs with James River Exteriors and given others the confidence to seek employment opportunities in this field.

Brief Summary

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Supplemental Material

Video from experience: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OoJzG16qKY&feature=youtu.be>