



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: Carpentry Class Helps Preserve Image of Local Restaurant

Program Category: Community and Economic Development

CONTACT INFORMATION

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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

Henrico County Public Schools' ACE Center at Highland Springs partnered with the local "Melting Pot" fondue restaurant to give students an opportunity to gain hands-on repair and refinishing experience on cabinet components. Some of the restaurant's wooden partitions needed structural and cosmetic repairs. These serve as privacy barriers for customers or enable the staff to expand sections by removing partitions to create seating areas for large groups of patrons.

Students gained an authentic experience for a real client. While students often have exposure to real-world carpentry projects, it can be hard to find real-world experience in cabinetmaking.

Problem/Challenge/Situation Faced by Locality

It can be difficult to give carpentry students real-world experience in some aspects of the trade — for example, cabinetmaking. The manager of the Melting Pot told us the restaurant was struggling to find someone who could repair these wooden partitions, which are unique to this establishment. When the ACE Center learned about their need, we saw it as an opportunity to teach students some additional components of woodworking. We also hoped that by establishing this partnership, there might be an opportunity for future collaborations between Henrico County Public Schools and the Melting Pot restaurant.

How Program Fulfilled Awards Criteria

This was an innovative solution to a lack of real-world cabinetmaking opportunities for students. The program enabled us to reach out to the business community, to try and form continued relationships with local businesses for the sake of providing future opportunities for our students across several programs. We believe that being able to help a company solve real-world problems in the field is a dynamic learning experience that enriches the knowledge gained for our students.

How Program Was Carried Out

The objective of this one-time program was to provide hands-on experience for carpentry students and teach them how to assess the damage, create a materials list and perform repairs. In addition, they would learn to match existing stain tones, while accounting for the aging process of the partitions that reflect a richer patina in the wood grain.

The carpentry curriculum focuses the majority of time in the area of residential construction. However, there is a great need in woodworking and many of our graduates over the years have explored the woodworking business. This project gave our students the chance to delve into a real-world woodworking experience.

The Melting Pot is a popular restaurant, which made the implementation timeframe challenging. Because the restaurant is particularly busy on weekends, the need for a quick turnaround was vital. We picked up the dividers on a Monday morning and needed to return them to the Melting Pot by Friday at lunchtime. The project not only included finishing the partitions but creating many custom pieces and parts that needed to be cut and installed.

Our students gained firsthand experience, not only from the project itself but also because of the tight timeline. This was a real-life experience, in which woodworkers must adhere to strict guidelines and timelines for the customer.

Carpentry II students were selected for the project. They had already been through 1.5 years of the carpentry program and had the skills to complete — and benefit from — the work. They did work during class time as well as some work after school. Students also used this project as practice for their annual SkillsUSA competitions.

Financing and Staffing

The Melting Pot purchased the materials necessary to complete this job so there was no cost to the school. There were also no additional staffing costs. Materials were estimated to cost approximately \$400. It was estimated that the labor cost would have been around \$1,500, had been done by a master cabinet shop. There were no delivery costs; HCPS picked up and delivered the partitions.

Program Results

The project was completed, and the partitions placed back in the restaurant. Students gained an authentic experience for a real client. It enabled us to explore an area of woodworking differently. Students were able to continue practicing skills related to safety, hand tools, machinery and chemical techniques with glazes and finishing. After the project, the Melting Pot donated to the carpentry program. The project helped students learn more about cabinetmaking as well as teaching them business ethics.

The most valuable result was the experience our carpentry students gained in cabinetmaking. While students often have exposure to real-world carpentry projects, it can be hard to find real-world experience in cabinetmaking. In addition, we were able to save the restaurant a considerable amount of money on the project.

Brief Summary

Henrico County Public Schools' ACE Center at Highland Springs partnered with the local "Melting Pot" fondue restaurant to give students an opportunity to gain hands-on repair and refinishing experience on cabinet components. Some of the restaurant's wooden partitions needed structural

and cosmetic repairs. These serve as privacy barriers for customers or enable the staff to expand sections by removing partitions to create seating areas for large groups of patrons.

While students often have exposure to real-world carpentry projects, it can be hard to find real-world experience in cabinetmaking. In this project, students gained an authentic experience for a real client.

Carpentry Helps Preserve Image of Local Restaurant

Supplemental Material

