Virginia Association of Counties
ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

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: LifeReady Learning Pathways: Academic and Career Planning

Program Category: Organizational Development

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: Victoria Davis

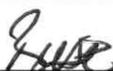**Title:** Public Relations Specialist

Department: Public Relations

Telephone: 804-501-4933   **Website:** www.henrico.us

Email: dav127@henrico.us

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 is committed to empowering students in the learning process. As a school division, we continually strive to implement creative uses of technology that make county processes more efficient and cost-effective. This commitment includes the use of digital resources to foster student agency in determining their learning path to achieve the competencies every student should possess by graduation. Henrico Schools transformed its traditional printed guide into a digital resource to effectively provide students and families with information to better understand the course offerings, resources and programming available through middle and high school.

Eventually providing programming throughout their pre-K through grade 12 experience, the Academic and Career Planning website offers students and families a chance to examine, discover and explore academic and career opportunities that will empower students to be life ready, as defined by Henrico's Learner Profile.

Problem/Challenge/Situation Faced by Locality

Beginning in 1994, Henrico County Public schools has printed a yearly academic and career planning guide to assist counselors, teachers, students, parents, and the community in outlining the learner pathways offered by the school system. The printed course guide was distributed to the 72 schools in Henrico for public consumption. Although the printed guide was a valuable resource to many school counselors to help students make informed decisions, it was a costly resource that was not used by the greater school community and had minimal student ownership in the process. Once the guide was printed, there was no way to make updates in real-time and some of the information contained within the planning guide was outdated soon after the hard copies were distributed. To solve this problem, Dr. Amy Cashwell, superintendent of Henrico

Schools, made it a priority in the HCPS Strategic Plan to "improve academic and career planning process by integrating with an interactive planning guide."

How Program Fulfilled Awards Criteria

This is an innovative solution to a problem: statistics released by allaboutcareers.com, a leading career exploration website, reveals that 44% of undergraduates are unable to define the industry in which they would like to work. This would no doubt also apply to middle and high school students, who are earlier along their career paths. Henrico's online academic planning program (https://academicplanningguide.henricoschools.us) is a major initiative to support our students as they navigate the path they take to plan for their futures. We hope that, by providing parents and students with an interactive experience, students can:

- Understand how the changing workplace requires lifelong learning, flexibility and the acquisition of new employment skills.

- Demonstrate skills involved in locating, using and interpreting a variety of career and educational resources, including the internet.

- Develop and use time and task-management skills.

- Apply decision-making skills to career planning.

- Identify the relationship of course content, educational achievement and career choices.

How Program Was Carried Out

Henrico County Public Schools endeavors to ensure that all of our students have opportunities to take part in a quality educational program, that will prepare them to be globally competitive citizens who are life-ready. It is our goal that this planning guide will assist our students and their families as they consider the many courses and programs available in our middle and high schools.

This program was designed to include real-time updates on course offerings — made directly by the lead staff members for curricula — using any device. This allows for a more efficient flow of information and more effective communication of offerings than previously available in the printed planning guide.

Unlike in years past, this program is tailored to focus on the student. It is important to incorporate students in the planning and development of the site materials and resources. A recent example of this is a student-created a video to highlight, the "why and how" behind the creation of the website and the importance behind academic and career planning.

TIMELINE:

- May 2019: Course Planning Guide Committee formed.

- June 2019: September 2019: Course offerings reviewed and edited by content leads to update the 2020-21 Course Planning Guide offerings.

- October 2019: Draft reviewed and approved by Henrico School Board.

- November 2019: Communication of digital platform option for middle and high school students.

- December 2019: Planning Guides distributed printed copies to schools and digital access provided through the student portal, "Clever."

USE OF TECHNOLOGY:

Some of the instances of technology that helped make this project a success includes but are not limited to:

- WordPress.

- Elementor plug-in for WordPress.

- Canva online editor.

- YouTube for Education.

- Laptop computers.

- HCPS wireless internet access.

- Adobe InDesign.

- Clever.

Financing and Staffing

Henrico Department of Teaching and Learning created the content for the program, necessitating no staffing additions. Since this program has moved to a digital format, Henrico County has seen relevant savings of approximately $4,000 in printing costs.

Program Results

In December, this program was made accessible to all students and staff members in the county via Clever. Clever enabled us to advertise the program to all 52,000 students and 7,000 employees. In addition to the planning guide containing information that once remained static, the website affords users a current, real-time experience with access to the latest course information. In addition, the website enables us to provide all Henrico stakeholders with access to virtual tour information for colleges and careers. We believe this is an outstanding opportunity that levels the playing field for students.
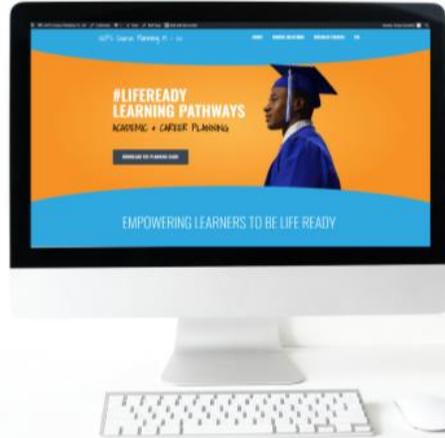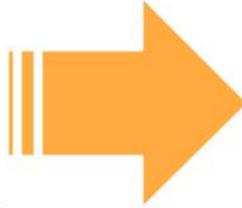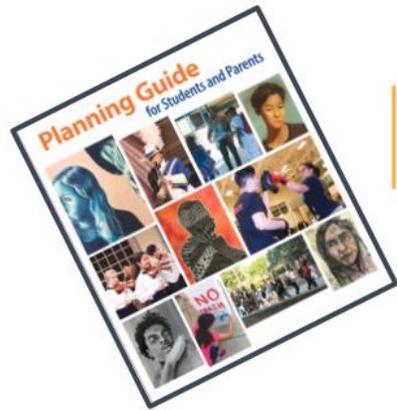
Brief Summary

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discover and explore academic and career opportunities that will empower students to be life

ready, as defined by [Henrico's Learner Profile](#).

LifeReady Learning Pathways: Academic and Career Planning

Supplemental Material

Most Used

Password Manager	Henrico G Suite ❓	PowerSchool Grade Portal	Henrico Schoology ❓	Career & Academic Planning Web...