



SUBMISSION FORM

All submission forms must include the following information. Separate submission forms must be turned in for each eligible program. **Deadline: July 1, 2021.** Please include this submission form with the 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: Community Partnership Drive ACE Center Night Out
Program Category: Health and Human Services

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 Night Out is the largest fundraising event for the Advanced Career Education (ACE) Center at Highland Springs. The ACE Center Night Out originated as an extension of HCPS' Teacher Appreciation Week. There was a community outpouring of support for Teacher Appreciation Week from community partners, and local, state and national vendors/merchants. The decision was made to add silent and live auction components to our efforts as a fundraiser for our school.

This event has been hugely successful and allows community members and partners to contribute to our students' educational success.

Problem/Challenge/Situation Faced by Locality

Each year our school is faced with raising funds to buy student supplies and enable students to participate in state and national level competitions such as Skills USA and Health Occupations Students of America. Students work hard to earn these spots by competing at the school division level. Some students qualify to compete at higher levels, but costs can be prohibitive. Many of our students are unable to afford the cost to participate in these competitions, which may be as far away as Florida and span several days.

With the proceeds from the silent and live auctions, we have been able to assist students with the costs. These competitions are invaluable: they provide students with the opportunity to showcase the presentation and leadership skills they have learned and mastered in their Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs here at the ACE Center at Highland Springs. Students have returned from these "higher level" events with increased confidence and more insight into what it means to be ready for the workplace/ to be professional. One of our student participants a few

years ago had never been on a plane before. Some have never left Virginia. Some who earned the opportunity to participate in a recent state competition in Virginia Beach had never seen the ocean. Students may have momentarily enjoyed getting their feet wet in the ocean, but the benefits of the exposure to these competitions affect our students for a lifetime and help them to define their career pathways.

How Program Fulfilled Awards Criteria

The ACE Center Night Out fundraiser is a means to an end. Together, all these collaborative efforts — by our faculty and staff, students, and community partners — help our students become confident leaders in their fields who will ultimately be employed, contributing members of our community. Through the initiative, we have managed to realize thousands of previously untapped dollars that go directly into bolstering the skills and confidence of our students.

How Program Was Carried Out

The objective of the silent and live auctions at the ACE Center Night Out is to raise money to support students with supplies and help students fund participation in state and national level competitions.

The ACE Center at Highland Springs Silent and Live Auction Committee began contacting local (Henrico County, Chesterfield County and the City of Richmond), state, and national vendors to ask for donations in January of the year of the auction. The committee works at this until April.

The committee reserves a local venue in Henrico County for the next year as soon as the current auction is over. A community member allowed the school to hold the event in her venue (The

Virginia Cliffe Inn) in Henrico County last year. The event was previously held in the cafeteria of Highland Springs High School.

Local, state and national merchants and vendors have contributed hotel stays, gift baskets, trips, restaurant gift certificates, gift certificates for goods and services such as dry cleaning and car washes, “staycations” at national chain and boutique hotels and more. The event is held each year in early May during the same time as Teacher Appreciation Week.

Financing and Staffing

In response to school funding becoming increasingly difficult, this program has created a unique way to involve business partnerships and raise funds for supplies and participation for our students.

The cost of the program is minimal. We invite students to come speak about the value of their ACE Center programs and the competitions they attend. The event location has varied in price since we have expanded the live auction to be held at a community building. The use of Highland Springs High School (2017 and 2018) was free of charge. The approximate costs associated with sponsoring this fundraising event are:

- \$500 to rent the local venue at The Virginia Cliffe Inn (Glen Allen, Va.)
- \$200 for supplies (materials for gift baskets, frames and event decorations such as pictures of students involved in their programs).
- \$300 for food (heavy hors d'oeuvres).
- Live jazz ensemble featuring a graduate of the ACE Center at Highland Springs.
- Postage depends on the number of flyers mailed.

This event may be replicated on a smaller or larger scale. We have done both. The school committee (faculty) plans, sets up, operates and breaks down the event. No additional personnel costs were incurred.

Program Results

The ACE Center Night Out has consistently been a highly successful fundraising event:

- In 2017, we raised approximately \$12,000.
- In 2018, we raised approximately \$14,000.
- In 2019, we raised approximately \$16,000.

The money raised from this event was able to cut the cost in half for students who participated in state competitions in Virginia Beach. These events have been great opportunities for students, parents and community members to show their support for the students at the ACE Center at Highland Springs. Vendors and merchants throughout the area, region, state and nation have continued to be generous supporters of our ACE Center Night Out event, as well as our Teacher Appreciation event.

Brief Summary

The ACE Center Night Out originated as an extension of HCPS' Teacher Appreciation Week. There was a community outpouring of support for Teacher Appreciation Week from community partners, and local, state and national vendors/merchants. The decision was made to add silent and live auction components to our efforts as a fundraiser for our school. The objective of the auctions at the ACE Center Night Out is to raise money to support students with supplies and help students fund participation in state and national level competitions.

Local state, and national business partners contribute donations for the auction. The school committee (faculty) plans, sets up, operates and breaks down the event, with involvement from the division's music program, culinary arts program and other departments. In 2019, approximately \$16,000 was raised. These funds were used to assist students competing in state competitions, reducing their cost by fifty percent. The event also provides an opportunity for students, staff, families, business partners and community members to come together in support of ACE Center at Highland Springs and have the opportunity to enjoy an evening of fellowship with one another.

**Community Partnerships Drive ACE Center Night Out
Supplemental Material**

