



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: Gaining Experience, Preserving a Restaurant's Interior
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

The Advanced Career Education (ACE) Center at Highland Springs High School, a part of Henrico County Public Schools, partnered with The Melting Pot restaurant in winter 2019 to provide carpentry students an opportunity to gain hands-on repair and refinishing experience on restaurant cabinet components. The restaurant needed some structural and cosmetic repair to a number of their wooden partitions that serve as privacy barriers for customers or allow the staff to expand sections by removing the partitions to create larger seating areas for groups of patrons.

Problem/Challenge/Situation Faced by Locality

The manager of The Melting Pot was struggling to find someone who could repair their wooden partitions because they are unique to this establishment. When the ACE Center learned about their need, we saw this as an opportunity to teach our students some additional components related to 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

The program allowed us to reach out to create continued relationships with local businesses, critical for providing continuing opportunities for our students across several programs. We believe that being able to help a business 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 program was to provide hands-on experience for HCPS 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, accounting for the aging process of the partitions that reflected a richer patina in the wood grain.

The carpentry curriculum primarily focuses on the area of residential construction. However, there is a great need in woodworking, and many of our students over the years have gone into the woodworking business upon graduation. This particular project gave our students the chance to delve into an authentic commercial woodworking experience.

The Melting Pot is a popular Henrico County restaurant, which made the implementation timeframe a challenging one. Because of the restaurant's weekend traffic, the need to have a quick turnaround was vital. The project was completed in winter 2019. We received the dividers on a Monday morning and needed to have them back to The Melting Pot by midday Friday. The project not only included finishing but significant construction of 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 adhering to strict guidelines and timelines to meet the needs of the customer was important.

Financing and Staffing

The Melting Pot purchased the materials necessary to complete this job, resulting in no costs to the ACE Center. Materials purchased by the restaurant were estimated to cost

approximately \$400. It was estimated that the labor costs would have been approximately \$1,500 had the work been done by a master cabinet shop.

Program Results

The project was completed, and the partitions were placed back in the restaurant. Students gained an authentic experience for a real client in need with this project. Students were able to meet state competencies for woodworking through the project, and gave us an opportunity to explore woodworking in a different way. This allowed students to continue to practice safety, hand tool and machinery skills, as well as chemical techniques with glazes and finishing. At the conclusion of this project, The Melting Pot provided a donation to the carpentry program. In addition, the Melting Pot was able to provide a safe dining environment to its customers as well an environment that was visually appealing.

Brief Summary

When the Advanced Career Education Center staff learned of a local restaurant struggling to find someone to repair wooden partitions, they saw an opportunity to assist a local business and provide unique and valuable real world experience for the center's carpentry students. Under a tight timeline, the carpentry students assessed the damage, created a materials list and performed repairs. In addition, they learned to match existing stain tones, accounting for the aging process of the partitions that reflected a richer patina in the wood grain. All of this was accomplished under a tight timeline.

At the end of the project, the restaurant received professional quality partitions to add to the comfort and safety of their customers' experience, students gained valuable real-life experience working for a client, and the ACE program created a new partnership with a grateful area business.

**Gaining Experience, Preserving a Restaurant's Interior
Supplemental Materials**

