



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: Live on Location: Exploring Careers During a Pandemic
Program Category: Community and Economic 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 (HCPS) middle and high school students interested in exploring different careers had the opportunity to speak virtually with professionals in various fields through “Live on Location” events streamed from a place of business or field location. Before the events, students were able to talk with an HCPS Advanced Career Education (ACE) center teacher and ask career- or program-related questions.

Students used this opportunity to further their knowledge to better understand different career pathways and course offerings at the ACE centers. Thirty different careers were explored over five weeks, better preparing students to choose future coursework to support their career pathways.

Problem/Challenge/Situation Faced by Locality

Pandemic-related social distancing limitations prevented HCPS students from visiting ACE Center programs and learning more about careers. Under normal circumstances, students would be able to visit classrooms and experience instruction taking place with actively engaged students demonstrating skills. In the past, this in-person student experience proved to be an important link in helping students learn about career paths and programs offered at HCPS’ two ACE centers. Since this process was not an option in a virtual instructional model, teachers used the power of business partnerships, personal cell phones and the Microsoft Teams application to connect with professionals in workplace environments, enabling students to talk with professionals.

How Program Fulfilled Awards Criteria

Creating an opportunity for students, teachers, and parents to come together required the innovation, dedication and collaboration of determined educators providing meaningful learning

opportunities regardless of health crisis limitations and restrictions. Teaching and learning continued throughout the pandemic and staff used the power of business relationships to connect students to the real world. While teachers remained creative and determined to engage students and model how the workplace environment might change, our primary mission of educating students remained first. Businesses were able to share the same sentiment and show how individual employees who are creative problem-solvers are valued, despite a changing world. The public health crisis may have changed the environment, but the mission has remained the same.

How Program Was Carried Out

Live on Location events from December 2020 - January 2021, as well as pre-event activities, provided middle and high school students and their parents and guardians with the chance to further their knowledge about different career pathways and course offerings at HCPS ACE centers. Thirty different careers were explored over a period of five weeks, better preparing students to choose future course work to support their career pathways. Participating students that helped with the event were in-person students who volunteered to help. The students (and their parents and guardians who attended the event) were current 10th grade students from schools across Henrico County.

Program Objectives were designed to:

- Provide an opportunity for HCPS students and parents the opportunity to learn more about career pathways and courses available at ACE Centers.
- Provide the opportunity for students to talk directly with career professionals.
- Enhance students' knowledge regarding different career pathways in order to assist with high school course selection and post-secondary planning.

- Provide enrichment opportunities in the curriculum and increase student engagement by encouraging students to think about their career plans.

Development

The program was a concerted effort by both Highland Springs and Hermitage ACE center faculty and staff to continue encouraging and engaging students in conversation about careers despite COVID-19 restrictions. Teachers used existing community and business partnerships that demonstrated an interest in supporting student growth.

Existing technology resources were used, including the Microsoft Teams application and staff smartphones, to transmit live video for students to view from home on their HCPS-issued laptops. A Bitly generator was used to track the number of attendees.

The event was open to all HCPS middle and high school students and their parents or guardians without mitigating factors such as transportation, permission forms or intrusion on traditional instructional time. Wi-Fi hot spots were provided to any student without access to the internet. The event was strategically scheduled outside of instructional time so all students could participate at their discretion. A digital flyer with links to each event was shared with all HCPS middle and high school students, so individuals had direct control of their own learning opportunities. Thirty careers were highlighted with business partners representing racial, gender and demographic diversity.

Financing and Staffing

The cost of the program was negligible, considering each student had a school-issued laptop. Teachers incurred a minimal cost for gas to attend events, usually within a couple of miles from

either ACE Center. Communication for the event was electronic therefore, no printing costs were incurred. The network connection was through personal hot-spot devices, incurring no additional cost.

Program Results

Below is a table of the number of attendances for virtual and Live on Location events by program.

There were a total of 2,976 attendances for the entire event.

Student responses were very positive, resulting in more than 800 ACE applications to date for the 2021-22 school year.

Program	Number of Attendees
Nursing	387
Medical/Legal Systems	109
Landscape/Horticulture	96
Graphics	51
EMT	92
Electrical	150
Diesel Tech	63
Culinary	82
Criminal Justice	181
Cosmetology	228
CAD	83
Barbering	79

Auto Tech	78
HVAC	111
Web Dev.	55
Vet Science	119
Sports Med	105
Precision Mech	82
Pharmacy	66
Radio	93
Masonry	52
High Tech Academy	121
ECE	139
Carpentry	62
Computer Systems	150
Hospitality	73
Auto Body	69

Brief Summary

Under normal circumstances, HCPS secondary students who may have an interest in exploring career education have the opportunity to visit classrooms and experience instruction taking place with actively engaged students demonstrating skills. In the past, this in-person student experience proved to be an important link in helping students learn about career paths and programs offered at HCPS' two ACE centers. Since this process was not an option in a virtual instructional model during the pandemic, teachers used the power of business partnerships, personal cell phones and the Microsoft Teams application to connect students with professionals in workplace environments and consider possible career paths.

HCPS middle and high school students interested in exploring different careers had the opportunity to speak virtually with professionals in various fields through 27 different “Live on Location” events streamed from a place of business or field location. Before the events, students were able to talk with an HCPS Advanced Career Education (ACE) center teacher and ask career- or program-related questions.

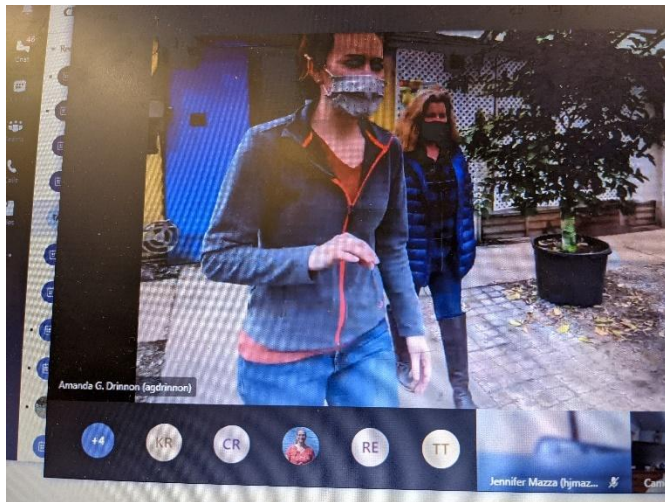
Students used this opportunity to further their knowledge to better understand different career pathways and course offerings at the ACE centers. Thirty different careers were explored over five weeks, better preparing students to choose future coursework to support their career pathways. There were a total of 2,976 attendances for the entire event. Student responses were very positive, resulting in more than 800 ACE applications to date for the 2021-22 school year.

Live on Location: Exploring Careers During a Pandemic Supplemental Materials

[Live on Location Link](#)

Below are a few screenshots of the Live on Location events and the community partners, teachers and students interacting during the event.

Screenshot of Strange's Greenhouse as Jennifer Mazza, horticulture teacher and a Strange's employee explain the greenhouse setup.



Screenshot of cosmetology teacher Karl Fox talking to a stylist at a Hair Cuttery location and answering student questions.



The owner of BWS Landscaping owner talks to students about commercial planting and shows them a job in progress.

