



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: Teachers for Tomorrow Symposium
Program Category: Community and Economic Development

CONTACT INFORMATION

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SIGNATURE OF COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR OR DEPUTY/ASSISTANT COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

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Title: Deputy County Manager for Administration
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Program Overview

The Teachers for Tomorrow Annual Symposium provides high school juniors and seniors enrolled in a teacher preparation course in Henrico County Public Schools (HCPS) the opportunity to experience real-world professional development, network with other future educators from across Henrico County, and learn about leadership skills, creative ideas and diversity. "Teachers for Tomorrow" is an honors level course offered in the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences. The idea of a group event started in 2006, but was revamped to make it more of a professional development opportunity for students. This included bringing in nationally known speakers or presenters, such as the national teacher of the year, and a well-known children's book author. Each year, approximately 200 students attend the one-day countywide event. Students are encouraged to dress professionally while networking with other students, teachers and community members.

Students often perceive the world based on their limited experiences. Henrico County's population is beautifully diverse, and its students may have wide-ranging backgrounds and experiences. Getting these teens together enables them to see what other students with similar professional goals are learning and doing. This serves as a foundation for expanding perceptions, nurturing diversity and better preparing tomorrow's teachers.

Problem/Challenge/Situation Faced by Locality

Nationally, there is a teacher shortage crisis. According to the Washington Post, nearly 940 teaching positions went unfilled in Virginia at the beginning of the 2017-18 school year, reflecting a teacher staffing crisis that has beset classrooms across the nation.

In Henrico County, we have a unique opportunity to offer Teachers for Tomorrow classes to high school students who believe they want to become educators. This will help develop future educators and will help give students a fuller understanding of teacher life, including participation in staff development. The idea for the symposium was to give them a deeper insight into “teacher life” and provide a day of staff development to learn and collaborate with other like-minded youth. This class, along with the symposium, also helps to address the teacher shortage in Henrico County. Henrico County also addresses the shortage with the Teacher Scholars program, which guarantees graduating high school senior recipients a teaching position in the county after they complete their undergraduate teacher preparation program. The majority of the students that have applied for this opportunity have been students from the Teachers for Tomorrow program.

How Program Fulfilled Awards Criteria

The program addresses a county need to enhance the classroom experiences of future educators and provides a professional learning opportunity such as a contracted teacher would experience. This helps address the teacher shortage in Henrico County and nationally by developing a pipeline for filling future teaching vacancies. It represents collaboration between multiple CTE departments, university partners and HCPS teachers at the elementary and secondary levels.

How Program Was Carried Out

The Teachers for Tomorrow Annual Symposium promotes intergovernmental cooperation among the school division, Henrico County Recreation and Parks Department as well as local private partners. Together these entities provide opportunities for youth that otherwise would not be possible. Using a creative approach, the institute expands on the state-mandated course curriculum to broaden students’ experiences in diversity, creative thinking and problem-solving and self-awareness as community members. The program meets the needs of many teens at a

manageable cost. The financial burden remains low for all contributors since funding is distributed between collaborators.

The symposium is open to all Henrico County students enrolled in the “Teachers for Tomorrow” class. Teachers submitted roster numbers to confirm the number of attendees.

The goal for the symposium was to provide a “staff development” type atmosphere for these potential future educators. Within the program at their respective high schools, they learn how to write lesson plans, develop enrichment activities and create assessments. They also have the opportunity to work with licensed teachers outside of their building at HCPS elementary, middle or, high schools during the practicum portion of the class.

The year’s event was held Feb. 1, 2020. It took roughly nine months to plan the symposium, secure the date and location, schedule the speakers and work with donors to secure funding for a national speaker. The teachers in the program, along with the educational specialist for the area, coordinated the activities, and each had roles in making the day a reality. Richmond’s local news channels were also present and ran stories about our event.

At the most recent symposium, on Feb. 1, 2020, we were able to provide training to students in intellectual designs, using more than 100 different techniques to check for learning, provide emotional check-ins and develop an understanding of students. A team of educators from Old Dominion University worked with the Teachers for Tomorrow students. Our future teachers were actively engaged and were shown ways to implement the techniques when they participate in their field experiences or later when they have their own classrooms. The feedback from the students was positive.

The students also heard from the keynote speaker, Rodney Robinson, the 2018 Virginia Teacher of the Year and the 2019 National Teacher of the Year. Rodney spoke about his experiences as a child and how a teacher inspired him to become a teacher. He taught in Richmond Public Schools, an adjacent school division.

The students were able to participate in mindfulness breaks throughout the day, to refocus their thoughts, reduce stress and assist them in being present in the moment. The techniques shared apply to their daily lives as well as to their future classrooms.

The Teachers for Tomorrow Annual Symposium will continue to provide growth and leadership opportunities to our future educators for many years to come.

Financing and Staffing

Expenses were covered using budgeted funds. Lunches were provided by culinary arts students at Varina High School. They prepared, set up, served and cleaned up. This provided real-life experience in catering for a conference. Individual teachers arranged transportation to the event for their students. Due to the age of the students, most carpooled. Other expenses, such as the cost of supplies, are generally divided among the teachers' classroom budgets. Whenever possible, free, donated or recycled items are used to reduce costs and teach students conservation of resources.

Program Results

Immediate results or the success of the program can be measured in two ways. The first way to measure the success of the class and symposium is through immediate feedback provided by the student participants, the speakers, administrative guests and teachers. Those responses have been positive and all participants were very thankful for the catered lunch provided by culinary

students. The fact that two local news outlets covered the event highlighted the successful nature of the program and provided added exposure to the course. Some families that may not have been aware of the Teachers for Tomorrow program may have seen the news coverage.

The second way that success can be measured is by the number of students enrolled in this course that continue in this field when they enter college and receive their first teaching contract. In talking with past and current teachers who have taught this class, both groups report that they have many students who are current teachers in Henrico County Public Schools or in the commonwealth of Virginia.

Brief Summary

The idea for the Teachers for Tomorrow Annual Symposium came from a goal of providing students a deeper insight into “teacher life” and a day of staff development to learn and collaborate with other students interested in the field of education. The symposium includes nationally known speakers or presenters, such as the national teacher of the year and a well-known children’s book author, as well as area education professionals. Approximately 200 students attended the one-day countywide event. Students were encouraged to dress professionally while networking with other students, teachers and community members.

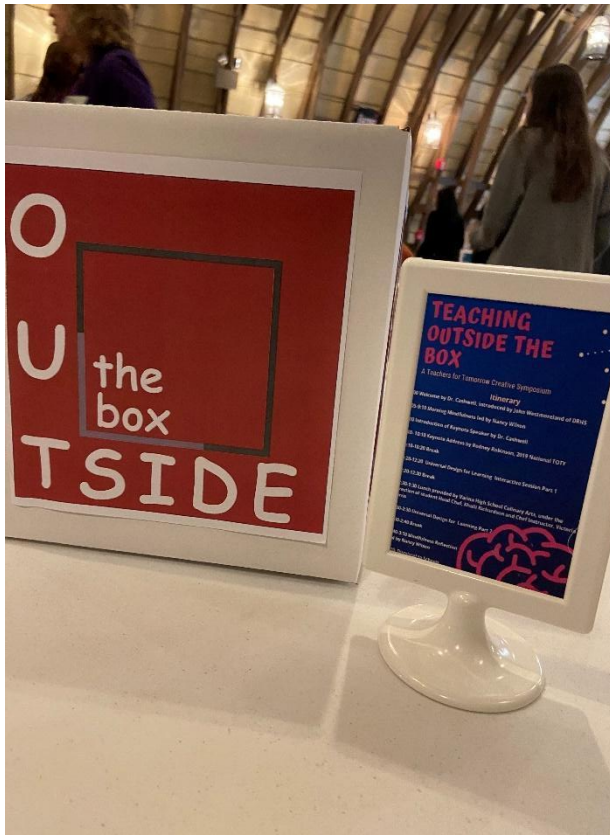
Immediate feedback provided by the student participants, the speakers, administrative guests and teachers was positive. Students gained knowledge through the sessions, interacted in a professional environment and made connections with both practitioners in the field and other students interested in education careers. Coverage from two local news outlets highlighted the successful nature of the program and provided added exposure for the Teachers for Tomorrow Program for the community and potential future students.

Teachers for Tomorrow Supplemental Material

Links for news coverage for the symposium

<https://www.nbc12.com/2020/02/11/symposium-preparing-henrico-students-education-field/>

<https://www.wric.com/news/local-news/henrico-county/teachers-for-tomorrow-hosts-symposium-for-dozens-of-henrico-students/>



Theme/ Itinerary

Student Engagement/ Discussion

TEACHING OUTSIDE THE BOX

A Teachers for Tomorrow Creative Symposium

Itinerary

- 8:00 Welcome by Dr. Cashwell, introduced by John Westmoreland of DRHS
- 8:05-9:10 Morning Mindfulness led by Nancy Wilson
- 9:10 Introduction of Keynote Speaker by Dr. Cashwell
- 9:10- 10:10 Keynote Address by Rodney Robinson, 2019 National TOTY
- 10:10-10:20 Break
- 10:20-12:20 Universal Design for Learning Interactive Session Part 1
- 12:20-12:30 Break
- 12:30-1:30 Lunch provided by Varina High School Culinary Arts, under the direction of student Head Chef, Khalil Richardson and Chef Instructor, Victoria Ferris
- 1:30-2:30 Universal Design for Learning Part 2
- 2:30-2:40 Break
- 2:40-3:10 Mindfulness Reflection led by Nancy Wilson
- 3:10- Dismissal to Schools

Agenda



Some student and teacher participants

Crowd View



2019 Teacher of the Year Rodney Robinson



Bibliography

https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/education/amid-teacher-shortages-virginia-takes-steps-to-lure-students-into-the-profession/2019/07/20/b9bf2b2a-a997-11e9-a3a6-ab670962db05_story.html