



SUBMISSION FORM

All submission forms must include the following information. Separate submission forms must be turned in for each eligible program. **Deadline: July 1, 2025.** Please include this submission form as the first page of your 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: Henrico County, Virginia

Program Title: Connecting Past and Present: Historical Trades Student Expo

Program Category: Community Development, Economic Development and Land Use

CONTACT INFORMATION

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SIGNATURE OF COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR OR DEPUTY/ASSISTANT COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

Name: Eileen Cox

Title: Chief of Communications, Henrico County Public Schools

Signature: Eileen M. Cox

1. Summary

As U.S. buildings age and construction methods change, the preservation and restoration of residential and commercial structures is growing as a career choice. Henrico County Public Schools' Advanced Career Education Center at Highland Springs includes several strong construction trade programs, including carpentry, masonry, electricity, cybersecurity, HVAC and computer-aided drafting. While the programs focus on current trends, state laws and codes, teachers also expose students to historical practices and background knowledge when applicable. For this program, HCPS had a unique opportunity to work with eight community partners to help students explore preservation and restoration techniques in a variety of trades.

2. The Problem or Need for the Program

HCPS trade programs focus on current trends, state laws and codes for construction trades. The school division's teachers have limited expertise in preservation and restoration of historical materials.

3. Description of the Program (Approx. 2½ pages or 800-1000 words... program objectives, development and implementation timeframe, clientele, county's role in implementation and contributions of other partners, if applicable)

For the Historical Trades Student Expo, students were organized into groups and rotated among four stations to learn about historical trades:

Station No. 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Preservation Virginia: Staff members shared tools and techniques that Preservation Virginia is using for the restoration of Bacon's Castle, the oldest brick dwelling in North America.● Gepetto Millwork: Matthew Wiley Millwork shared Historic Building Supplies' wood windows restoration.
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Station No. 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Preservation Virginia: Eric Litchford demonstrated the traditional regional process of creating plaster with oyster shells.
Station No. 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Colonial Williamsburg blacksmith: Ken Schwarz shared traditional blacksmith tools and practices, and modeled how tools were created.● Belmont College Historical Trades Training Program● Historic Richmond: Jennie Joyce
Station No. 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● George's Clock Shop: George Cosier shared various grandfather clock styles and shared how the devices work.● The American College of the Building Arts: Elizabeth Clyde of the school in Charleston, S.C.

Partners Home Depot and Krispy Kreme helped sponsor the event by donating giveaways for students to enjoy throughout the day.

4. The Cost of the Program

Volunteers donated their time and two corporate sponsors donated items for students. There were no costs to hold the program.

5. The Results/Success of the Program

Students were initially unsure about how useful it would be to learn about historical trades. However, after participating in this event, students were not only excited with what they learned but were able to connect their experiences to class lessons and modern practices. Some attending students are now considering exploring more historical opportunities for future career paths and considering attending Belmont or The American College of the Building Arts. This was the event's first year and it was evident from feedback from students, teachers and partners that the event was time well spent for attendees. Respondents unanimously requested that HCPS schedule the Historical Trades Student Expo as an annual event. The second event is planned for November 2025.

6. Worthiness of Award

This program epitomizes what VACo awards are about. In this program, experts and community members came together to help HCPS students learn more about historical trades, an area that most had limited exposure to. Event partners were engaged and impressed with the student questions throughout the event. Students and teachers were amazed at the connections they were able to make between past and current practices in their respective fields of study.

Organizers are already looking forward to continuing to grow and expanding the unique opportunity for HCPS students enrolled at the Advanced Career Education Center at Highland Springs.