



SUBMISSION FORM

All submission forms must include the following information. Separate submission forms must be turned in for each eligible program. **Deadline: July 1, 2024.** 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: Raising the Roof
Program Category: Community & Economic Development

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: Victoria Davis
Title: Public Relations Specialist
Department: Public Relations
Telephone: 804-501-4933 Website: www.henrico.gov
Email: dav127@henrico.gov

SIGNATURE OF COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR OR DEPUTY/ASSISTANT COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

Name: Monica Smith-Callahan
Title: Deputy County Manager for Community Affairs
Signature: *Ms Smith-Callahan*

Program Overview

The Henrico County Public Schools Department of Workforce and Career Development focuses on the importance of career awareness, career exploration and career preparation. The Virginia Association of Roofing Professionals partnered with Henrico County Public Schools' career and technical education programs to create a "living lab" roofing project. More than 100 middle and high school students from all over Henrico County participated in this unique opportunity. The students heard from roofing professionals about roofing career paths and got hands-on experience repairing a retrofit metal roof at the Advanced Career Education Center at Highland Springs. This hands-on learning project gave students a broader understanding of the roofing industry, the many types of roofing opportunities available and a glimpse of a roofing contractor's day.

Problem/Challenge/Situation Faced by Locality

The roofing industry is facing a shortage of workers as the current workforce ages. To address this gap, Scott Shufflebarger, Virginia Association of Roofing Professionals president, contacted Henrico County Public Schools to explore options for speaking with students about the diverse career paths available in the roofing industry. The Workforce and Career Development Department believes that students learn best through hands-on experience and that providing opportunities for students to explore all career fields is crucial. Together, they established the Living Lab Roofing Project. This project provided an opportunity for the roofing professionals group to work directly with HCPS students and offer a unique experience to explore the roofing industry, the types of roofing professionals and gain skills in roof repair.

How Program Fulfilled Awards Criteria

The Living Lab Roofing Project is deserving of a VACo award for many reasons. The innovative program was a collaboration between our local business partners and Henrico County Public Schools. The project provided students with a creative and forward-thinking way to work directly on the roof of a public building and actively address needed repairs, all while exploring the roofing industry. These students walked away with not only the knowledge of basic roof repair but also an interest in and knowledge of a possible career path. These powerful moments of exploration aim to aid the roofing industry in filling its workforce shortage.

How Program Was Carried Out

The Virginia Association of Roofing Professionals is a statewide organization representing contractors, suppliers, distributors and design professionals in the roofing industry. Hertless Brothers Roofing, an organization member, is an established business partner of Henrico County Public Schools' Department of Workforce and Career Development Scott Shufflebarger, the Virginia Association of Roofing Professionals president and Hertless Brothers Roofing owner, shared the need to address the roofing workforce shortage brought about by the aging workforce. To address this shortage, they wanted opportunities to provide our students with career awareness and exploration of the roofing industry and its many facets. The Workforce and Career Development Department at Henrico County Public Schools supports student hands-on experiences as the best way to reach more students. The Department focuses on providing students with as many life-ready opportunities as possible, supporting career exploration, preparation and readiness. The many opportunities in the roofing industry become relevant to the students when they can see them firsthand.

Created in collaboration with the HCPS Facilities Department; Department of Workforce and Career Development; and the Virginia Association of Roofing Professionals, the "living lab"

provided more than 100 middle school and ACE Center students with a hands-on career exploration opportunity. Henrico County Public Schools' Department of Facilities identified needed roof repairs at the division's ACE Center at Highland Springs — the final piece of the building's renovations.

Before beginning the lab on the roof, the industry group taught our students about safety, the number one thing all CTE students must know before participating in any hands-on experience. Virginia Association of Roofing Professionals members explained the expectations for the students while on the roof and discussed the importance of personal protective equipment. Students received protective gear, including gloves, glasses and hard hats, to participate in the "living lab."

The project enabled students to participate in roof repair and maintenance, instead of just observing. Students, under the guidance of roofing professionals, were able to complete the work. Students were divided into groups and assigned a crew leader from a local roofing business. The crew leaders provided students with step-by-step instructions on what they would do, including cleaning and preparing the area, measuring and cutting the fabric and brushing on the coating sealant. The students, with the guidance of HCPS' industry partners, completed the needed repairs to the roof at the ACE Center at Highland Springs.

After completing the assigned tasks at the roofing lab, each group met with representatives from multiple roofing companies. These professionals shared their experiences working within the industry. Students learned about the numerous career paths within the roofing industry and the opportunities that can be opened through these experiences.

Financing and Staffing

HCPS' Workforce and Development Department has created strong business partnerships. All materials for the project were donated through these partnerships. The Living Lab Roofing Project required no funding from Henrico County Public Schools.

Program Results

The Living Lab Roofing Project exceeded its creators' expectations. Students left with a strong understanding of the many career opportunities within the roofing industry through this hands-on learning experience. HCPS students learned how to repair a retrofitted metal roof using elastomeric. They also had an opportunity to explore roofing as a possible career option. This unique opportunity inspired students to learn more about the roofing industry and explore career opportunities. Students shared their enjoyment of the project, the opportunity of being on the roof and repairing it, and the possibilities available in the roofing industry in the future.

Brief Summary

The roofing industry is facing a shortage of workers as the current workforce ages. Henrico County Public Schools' career and technical education program partnered with the Virginia Association of Roofing Professionals to create a "living lab" roofing project. More than 100 middle and high school students from all over Henrico County participated in this unique opportunity. The students heard from roofing professionals about roofing career paths and got hands-on experience repairing a retrofit metal roof at the Advanced Career Education Center at Highland Springs. This hands-on learning project gave students a broader understanding of the roofing industry, the many types of roofing opportunities available and a glimpse of a roofing contractor's day.

Raising the Roof Supplemental Material

[VARP Living Lab Project 2023](#)

