



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: Trade Skills Memorialize Veterans and First-responders
Program Category: Regional Collaboration

CONTACT INFORMATION

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SIGNATURE OF COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR OR DEPUTY/ASSISTANT COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

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Program Overview

Students enrolled in Henrico County Public Schools' Advanced Career Education Centers gained practical learning experiences when supporting a community-based effort to create a veterans memorial at J.R. Tucker High School. Students in the masonry, and horticulture and landscaping programs applied skills they have learned to prepare and install a brick sidewalk and viewing space, as well as preparing and installing landscaping in the area. Masonry students were involved in the installation of the brick pavers, and then worked with the horticulture and landscaping students to plant bushes and mulch the area. In partnering with a community organization, students received a hands-on, meaningful project that reinforced their skills, while acting as productive citizens to fill a community need.

Problem/Challenge/Situation Faced by Locality

When the new J.R. Tucker High School was scheduled to open for the 2021-22 school year, a community group proposed the idea of a veterans and first-responders memorial at the school. Once the school was fully open and the grounds of the school finished, the community group worked with the Henrico County Public Schools Department of Facilities to determine a suitable location for the memorial. The community group had resources available through materials donated, as well as through fundraising, but needed assistance with construction of the space. The school division's Advanced Career Education Centers provide authentic learning experiences for students. Students in the masonry, and horticulture and landscaping programs receive instruction in these trades, and the goal is for students to not only cover the theory of the content, but to demonstrate the relevance of what they're learning in a practical and hands-on way. Incorporating these programs and students allowed not only for a hands-on learning experience, but also helped to teach the students the value of community relationships and business partnerships.

How Program Fulfilled Awards Criteria

This program provided students with an innovative meaningful learning experience. Students got hands-on experiences that were rigorous and relevant to the instruction they had received, as well as allowing them to demonstrate, apply and expand on their skills. The opportunity afforded them the chance to work alongside individuals in their respective industries, providing a chance to connect in a meaningful way about their trade. Finally, it provided an opportunity for community collaboration. Students saw how businesses can operate while staying grounded in the community — an important lesson that exceeds the boundaries of the classroom. It instills in them an appreciation for their community and recognizes the value of providing community service.

How Program Was Carried Out

The community group requesting this memorial consisted of alumni of J.R. Tucker High School, many from the class of 1978. The school always has and continues to have a high number of graduates that have made a commitment to public service through enlisting in the military or pursuing careers as first-responders. With the newly constructed school, the group wanted to construct a memorial that would honor the graduates who have made this commitment and sacrifice.

While the initial idea was conceived before the newly constructed building opened for the 2021-22 school year, the group needed to wait until all phases of construction had completed. This would include all the modifications to the school grounds. The alumni group continued to raise funds through various means, including multiple charitable golf outings. Once the construction was completed, the group toured a proposed location in October 2023 with the school administration, the HCPS Department of Facilities, and the HCPS Department of Workforce and Career Development. A location was marked for a patio to be constructed with brick pavers, a

mulched bed containing multiple bushes and other plants, and a metal sculpture that would be constructed by one of the group's members. The memorial would be constructed adjacent to a pathway up a small hillside that overlooked the school and campus. The goal was to have the memorial finished in time to be unveiled for the school's Veterans Day program scheduled for Nov. 10, 2024.

Beginning in late October, students in the masonry and horticulture and landscaping programs from the ACE Center at Virginia Randolph came out to work alongside a mason from the community group. Students worked to lay out and measure the details for the space, and then removed dirt to create a space for patio and brick pavers. Masonry students continued to come out over a few days to work alongside members of the group to lay the pavers and construct a short walkway from the school path and then pave the patio area for the memorial. Next, horticulture and landscaping students came out in early November to plant bushes along the patio and mulch in the space around it. During this time, the designer and fabricator of the memorial came out and conducted the installation at the patio.

After the memorial was finished, it was unveiled at the school's annual Veterans Day program, held Nov. 10, 2023. The program included participation from the student body at J.R. Tucker High School, and many members of the community were able to attend for its unveiling.

The partnership with the community alumni group was critical to the overall success and completion of the memorial's construction. They provided not only the financial resources to bring the idea to life, but also the chance to work alongside masonry, horticulture and landscaping students in an authentic way. This collaboration enabled students to engage in conversations

about the importance of industries to stay rooted in the community and help wherever possible.

The values conveyed in the project transcend the skills taught in the classroom.

Financing and Staffing

An excavator was made available through the Henrico County Public Schools Department of Facilities at no cost to the project. Needed materials were purchased through the alumni group, which raised and spent close to \$5,000. The brick pavers were purchased from a local supplier at cost, and R. J. Bonovitch Masonry donated roughly \$1,000 in time and labor to work alongside students. Landscaping materials, including mulch, bushes and other plants were made through a generous donation from Charles Lamphere Landscaping and Design. The fabrication of the artwork was done by Chip Hudson, where the value of materials alone was nearly \$2,000, and the materials and labor to paint the sculpture were done by a local artist.

Program Results

The completed Veterans and First-Responders Memorial at J.R. Tucker High School is a tribute to the members of the school community, and honors the commitment and sacrifices made by JRTHS alumni. It was unveiled to a great deal of excitement and appreciation when the school hosted its annual Veterans Day program Nov. 10, 2023. The presentation included a musical performance by the school's band and chorus, the color guard from the school's Marine Corps JROTC, and was attended by many school and community members to honor and pay tribute. Included in attendance were two Gold-Star mothers.

While the memorial serves as a place of honor and remembrance for the community, the construction of the memorial itself improved student learning. The students from the ACE Center at Virginia Randolph involved in this project were able to apply the skills they acquired from their

program. In addition, it provided an avenue for students to develop themselves as contributing members of society and to see the importance of working within the community to provide and give back to something larger than themselves.

Brief Summary

Students enrolled in HCPS' Advanced Career Education Centers gained practical learning experiences when supporting a community-based effort to create a veterans memorial at the newly opened J.R. Tucker High School. Students in the masonry, and horticulture and landscaping programs applied skills they have learned to prepare and install a brick sidewalk and viewing space, as well as preparing and installing landscaping in the area. Masonry students were involved in the installation of the brick pavers, and then worked with the horticulture and landscaping students to plant bushes and mulch the area. In partnering with a community organization, students received a hands-on, meaningful project that reinforced their skills, while acting as productive citizens to fill a community need.

Trade skills applied to memorialize Veterans and First Responders Supplemental Material

Highlight video that showcases this project can be viewed at: <https://youtu.be/72tlzXrGpuw>