

The Henrico Mock Interview program received recognition from the Virginia Department of Education as the Business and Industry Partnership Region 1 winner of the 2010 Creating Excellence Award. The award recognizes programs and organizations that demonstrate exceptional and exemplary contributions to Career and Technical Education in the Commonwealth of Virginia. [Read more>](#)

The Henrico Mock Interview program was recognized on June 17, 2010 as the Region 1 Regional Business and Industry Partnership School Division or Joint Technical Center Award. Realizing that internships and work experiences often open the doors to better job opportunities and greater success in college, the Henrico Business Council of the Greater Richmond Chamber partnered with the Henrico Education Foundation and Henrico County Public Schools to offer mock interviews at area high schools.

The Henrico Mock Interview program begins in the Family and Consumer Sciences Life Planning classes, where students prepare for job interviews by focusing on career exploration, assessment of their interests and aptitudes, and determination of the educational requirements for specific career pathways. Students prepare by completing a resume, cover letter, references, and an application for mock employment in advance. The Henrico Business Council recruits members of the Henrico business community to interview the students, often times providing the students' first interview experience. On interview day, students practice their interview skills with at least three business community volunteers who provide immediate feedback and a follow-up written evaluation. During their next class, students receive their evaluations and discuss their experiences, reflecting on what went well and what they would do differently next time.

The program afforded nearly 350 juniors and seniors at Tucker, Henrico, and Varina High Schools the opportunity to hone their career preparation and job interview skills with community business leaders. In return, 100 community leaders benefited from participating in the educational process by sharing their business expertise by conducting over 1000 interviews with young people who are soon entering the work force. The program has successfully provided: 1) students with practical experience in career preparation and the job search; 2) opportunities for students to connect with real business men and women in our local community; and 3) opportunities for community leaders to participate in the educational process and share their business expertise with young people who are soon entering the work force, thereby building tomorrow's local workforce. The program has grown over the past three years from one school site to three due to the success of the program.