



Governor’s Best Practices in Workforce & Economic Development Award Nomination Application

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Nominated Project Title: Admiralty Head Light House Project

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Summary of nominated project (No more than two sentences.): When a request was made by Admiralty Light House to Nichols Brothers to build a new Lantern House for the Admiralty Light House, it sparked an idea from the ship yard to make it a learning experience for our local high schools. Nichols Brothers pitched the idea to the Schools and the light house committee and the project was launched as a combined industry/high school skill development program.

Region and/or communities benefitting from project: Island County

When (month and year) did nominated project launch: Sept. 2010

Has the project/activity operated continuously since then: No
If not, explain:Progress stops during summer break

Start-up costs Donations **Most recent annual budget:** none

List your major funding sources, including tax credits or incentives, grants, and other private sector support: Ice Floe/DBA Nichols Brothers, Coupeville Arts & Crafts Association, Other industry support, Admiralty Head Lighthouse Contributions

Describe the purpose (need) and the unique approach taken by the nominated project to satisfy the stated need (450 words or less)The Admiralty Head Lighthouse built in 1903 had a cast iron and glass lantern enclosure (top lantern house) which was removed in 1927. At that tme it was sent to it's new home as the light beacon for the Dungeness Spit light house near Port Angeles. Some years later the Admiralty Head Lighthouse lantern house section was replaced by a temporary structure made from light sheet metal and plexiglass. Richard Malone of the Admiralty Head Lighthouse committee approached Nichols Brothers Ship Yard in 2009 to ask if they would be interested in fabrication of a steel lantern house that would match the original cast iron assembly. The request sparked an idea at Nichols Brothers to use the project to promote a skill development program in the three local high schools on Whidbey Island in order to draw out and nurture future talent for our industry. There has in recent years been a shortage of skilled steel workers in the Whidbey Island work force. The concept was pitched to the local high schools and Admiralty Head Lighthouse where it received a hearty response. After some planning it was determined by the student teams to to build the structure in three modular sections at the three widely seperated high schools. The project team leaders and project manager were appointed by the shop teachers from their high school students and the project was kicked off for a Fall 2010 start. Nichols Brothers, with the help of Argonaught Marine lofted the lantern house from the original design drawings and nested the parts in steel plates provided by Nichols Brothers and Seaport Steel. As the students have assembled the parts they've been challenged to develop special bending equipment, fabrication techniques, problem solving, production schedules and develop interface methodology solutions that normally would never be encounter in a typical metal shop environment. The project will continue through its completion in Spring of 2012 when the Lantern House will be painted bolted in place and given a proper dedication ceremony. It is hoped that the project will bring about a continued joint skill development program between Nichols Brothers and Whidbey Island's High Schools.

Describe how the nominated project incorporates both workforce and economic development practices and provides a benefit to workers and employers. (See cover page) (250 words or less) The project provides a number of opportunities.

1st) A community need is met

2nd) The high school students are placed into a work environment very much like what they will face after entering into the work force, with the added caveat that student skill levels are pushed beyond what is normally expected at a high school age. Team building and problem solving have been at their best through the first stages of the project.

3rd) Potential employees with good work skills and work habits are made available to local industry where they might connect into an apprenticeship program.

Will the nominated project continue into the future? Yes

If yes, how will it be funded and sustained. (200 words) We have already begun discussions of other joint skill development programs. The next project may be a 36 harbor tug which would be funded by the ship yard for use in handling shipyard work. In the future we hope to also offer these skill building opportunities to some of the "at risk" youth. Although these "at risk" youth may present some special problems we expect they will rise to the challenge if given the chance.

In an attachment, demonstrate how this project/activity has made a quantifiable difference to the economic health of working people and employers. (Tables and graphs based on verifiable numbers. Words should be used only to support the data and should be kept to a minimum)

Check when done.

A short concluding statement on why you believe this project/activity is noteworthy or unique and should serve as a best practice model. (100 words or less) To give our Whidbey Island high schools an opportunity to build a community project, whereby they learn and give of themselves for the benefit of their community. The idea is to put the students into an environment whereby they are responsible for the end product rather than their teachers being responsible. It is a unique opportunity to build their skill sets in areas of manufacturing and management at a professional level. The natural leaders rise to the surface and students are building confidence in their abilities. When completed the project will be something tangible and visual that students that will be able to take pride in for many years to come.

Graduating Students will have an opportunity to enter the skilled work force with confidence and we hope they will choose our company when they do so.

Program or Project's website or webpage: None Yet

List the leading individual(s) or organization(s) that should receive special recognition for their role in the project or activity. Please provide name, title, role, address and phone number. Ice Fle/DBA Nichols Brothers, South Whidbey High School, Oak Harbor High School, Coupeville High School, Dick Malone of Admiralty Head Light House, Coupeville Arts and Crafts Festival Association.

Name and contact information of person completing this nomination form:

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