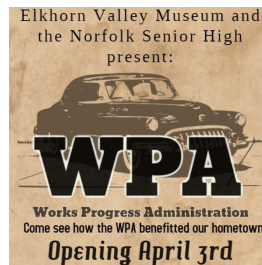

Press Release - For Immediate Release - April 2017

**Norfolk High School AP United States History Class
Career Exploration at Elkhorn Valley Museum**

Twenty-five students from Norfolk High School spent the last six weeks learning about museum careers and the many skills needed to work in a museum. These students are members of the AP (Advanced Placement) United States History Class at NHS and their experience was part of a College Access Grant that Norfolk High School has been awarded. This grant is given by Educationquest and is intended to support public schools in their development of career and college ready graduates.

The AP United States History students partnered with the Elkhorn Valley Museum in Norfolk to create an exhibit representing life in the 1920s and 1930s in the Elkhorn Valley. These students went on a field trip to the museum. They received mini job descriptions of museum careers and had to choose a job that interested them. They applied for the job as part of the exhibit creation. Some jobs that students learned about, and applied for, included graphic design work, exhibit designer, preparator, curator, etc. They met in class weekly (more often as the deadline approached) and also went on their own time to see Jeana Ganskop, Director of Education at the Elkhorn Valley Museum, to coordinate details with her. They acted as and were treated as professionals.



The two exhibits, currently on display in April and May at the Elkhorn Valley Museum, are titled “The Roaring 20s: Fads and Fun” and “Works Progress Administration: Benefitting the Community for Generations.” While working on the assignment, the students discovered many interesting things about the history of the Elkhorn Valley during these two decades. One interesting fact

showcased in the exhibit is that there was a speakeasy in Norfolk. The students used the local government offices to find the current owner, called him, and arranged for a tour. It is located underground! The owner of the property took the students for a tour, showed them where the alcohol was hidden, the art deco designs on the old walls, and the escape hatch.

In addition to the exhibits at the museum, there is also a driving tour of 10 historic sites in Norfolk, sponsored by Norfolk Area Travel and Tourism. To participate, residents scan a QR code with their smartphone and it will navigate them to a historic local site. Then at the site, the phone will show a photo of what the location looked like in the past, compared to now, and share historic details regarding the site.

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NHS History Teacher Mrs. Kathy Steinkamp told us “ *I went to the museum on Saturday to assist the students with final installation. I saw my students working hard in professional museum careers, doing their jobs with the utmost care and attention to detail. I was so very proud of their efforts and the way they represented themselves and our school. In all my years of teaching, I have never seen an assignment so successful! It has been quite the journey.*”

For additional information please contact:

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