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NEH Lesson Plan/Idea

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**Objective:** To celebrate multiculturalism in the technical school setting in a way that all students can participate and tie in with the school's mission statement

**Rationale:** Currently, my technical school district does very little to celebrate multiculturalism. I think the only effort I have seen is a group of posters hung in a hallway that tell the different months; for example February is Black History Month. We do have a group of staff members who are tasked with figuring out a way to celebrate multiculturalism. I am not currently on that committee, but they are pretty inactive, so I don't think presenting my idea will be difficult. On my campus, we have a mission statement that states that one of our goals is to promote and honor diversity. My idea is to create a display or mini-museum that can be set up in a central location for the students on my campus to explore. I would like the display to connect with multiculturalism along with emphasizing an aspect of technical education. The display will focus on the Calhoun School started by Booker T. Washington, a technical school started by Booker T. Washington to educate black people in skilled profession, such as carpentry, domestic skills, animal husbandry, history, science, math, and community health.

**Steps/Plans:**

1. Approach administration with my idea and decide on a central location for display, along with securing money to help with the display. I can recruit the Drafting teacher or class to help me create a high-quality visual display, but I will need money for materials.
2. Begin research on the Calhoun School, especially for primary source documents that can make the school come alive for students. Areas of research are the founding of the school, the goal of the school, the location of the school, courses taught in the school, how the school fit into history, along with including a timeline with other developments in technical education, how the school influenced the Civil Rights movement and fit into school segregation and integration, what graduates went on to do after their education, and anything else available.
3. Enlist the drafting instructor and students in deciding the best way to display the research, which program will accomplish that goal.
4. Have students create display materials.
5. Set up display and promote within the school to get student participation.

**Extension:**

During scheduled reading lab time (in my classroom), have students research the history of the curriculum of their program, especially concerning changes in curriculum and when their program began. The students could also predict the changes that will be made in their program because of the future of the particular industry. Each class could create an addition to the display that can be exhibited. Talk to administration on the 7 other campuses in my district, and arrange for the display to travel to the other campuses.