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## **NEWS RELEASE**

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### **Booker T. Washington High's Innovation Center Hosts Innovative Pop-Up Museum**

From old-fashioned yarn dolls to 3D printed exhibits, the Innovation Center in Booker T. Washington High School has done it again! For the next two weeks, half of the library space will become a Pop-Up Civil War Museum, an innovative way to teach American history. They are partnering with the Mel Fisher Maritime Museum, and they have incorporated 3D printing, period handcrafts, research, dioramas and challenges to engage students in learning about life during the Civil War era.

"Our goal for this project is to extend classroom learning and spark students' interests in their upcoming history unit on the Civil War as well as give our modern, tech-savvy students a way to relate to our shared history. By creating crafts available to kids in the 1860's or by asking them to think like a soldier defending Fort Pickens, we are hoping to help them make connections between their various interests and history, said Alisha Wilson, Washington High's Innovation Center Specialist.

"My students appreciated the hands-on approach to the material. Creating yarn dolls, examining currency from the period, viewing Lincoln's death mask and having a demonstration by a fellow student Civil War reenactor in full uniform brought the subject to life. The virtual reality sequence was very engrossing as well. The combining of the old world skills, such as silhouette making, yarn dolls and cleaning cotton by hand, along with the newer technology available, like virtual reality and 3D printing, made for an engaging museum styled lesson which appealed to every student," said Shannon Breaux, an 11th grade Advanced Placement U. S. history instructor at Washington High School. "This type of learning helps students retain the information and have a better understanding of the period."

"By partnering with the Mel Fisher Museum, and using files available through the Smithsonian," added Wilson, "we show students that museums are relevant ways to learn. We hope that this will inspire them to explore all of the historic museums and sites available to them in person and virtually."

The Booker T. Washington High School Civil War Pop-Up Museum includes:

- 3D printed life mask of Abraham Lincoln (created by using a file from the Smithsonian Institute)
- Cardboard dioramas of Fort Pickens and Fort Barrancas with an accompanying cannon making invention challenge
- Yarn Doll Making
- Civil War Silhouette Station
- Dress in the Civil War, including a presentation by one of the students in authentic Union soldier attire
- Museum panels on conflict and compromise in the Civil War
- Confederate money exhibit
- Cotton and the South exhibit
- Booker T. Washington and the Civil War Exhibit
- Virtual Reality Experience *My Brother's Keeper*, a story about two brothers who fought on opposite sides of the war

**Photos from the opening day**, held before the holiday break, are posted on Facebook on the page, Escambia Schools Public Relations. Photo credit goes to Alisha Wilson, Innovation Center Specialist, Booker T. Washington High School.

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