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**Marine & Maritime Career Expo Introduces
Enthusiastic High Schoolers to
Unique Career Opportunities**

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On Thursday, April 25 EYCF Foundation hosted the 13th Annual Marine & Maritime Career Expo at Bert Jabin's Yacht Yard in Annapolis. It's a day about inspiring today's youth to pursue education and rewarding jobs in the boating industry. It's EYCF's way of helping with one of the many workforce development challenges happening across our country.

Conceived in 2010 with the support of Anne Arundel County Public Schools, the Expo is a special effort that allows one-on-one connections with industry pros, trade schools and higher education reps with students that have shown interest in the field. Brianna Horne from IYRS School of Technology and Trades from Newport, RI shared, "We got more meaningful interaction with Expo attendees than at any other event in the last year."

In addition to meeting dozens of exhibitors, students visit marine support businesses on the property and experience a working boat yard. EYCF Expo Chairperson, Wendy Madden puts her heart and soul into this event. "As an HR Manager in the industry, I'm passionate about the critical need for attracting new rising stars to the business. This day is one the whole boat yard looks forward to."

Nine Anne Arundel County High Schools sent 124 energetic tenth, eleventh and twelfth graders along with their teachers. At least two students were offered summer jobs and many others handed out resumes to potential employers.

Chesapeake High's Technology & Engineering teacher, Melvin Gill said, "Some of the students I brought with me are probably not headed to college. Giving them this exposure to different career pathways is invaluable". Isaac Sears, also from Chesapeake told us, "I learned the marine business is not just about fixing boat engines. Looking at all the interesting opportunities here feels pretty exciting."

A good day was had by all. AACPS Work-Based Learning Facilitator and EYCF Board Member, Kimberly Cox reflected, "I'm so happy to be able to work on both sides of the Expo. This meaningful collaboration is an experience I love giving to our students."

EYCF Foundation continues their commitment to the worthy cause of inspiring local youth to discover and embrace the marine and maritime world by offering scholarships to trade schools and colleges that specialize in those fields. This year's application deadline is May 15.

Learn more about scholarships and all the EYCF programs at <https://eycfoundation.org/>

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