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Marine & Maritime Career Expo Inspires High Schoolers to Pursue Unique Career Opportunities

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On Thursday, April 24 EYC Foundation hosted the 14th Annual Marine & Maritime Career Expo at Bert Jabin Yacht Yard. Twelve local high schools sent 130 enthusiastic students to experience a day in the life of a marine industry pro.

Conceived in 2010 with the support of Anne Arundel County Public Schools, the Expo educates students about the marine and maritime world and inspires them to pursue careers in the industry. It's a unique opportunity to make one-on-one connections with dozens of visiting exhibitors including marine service and retail businesses, maritime companies, military and government organizations, trade schools and higher education institutions.

Koral McKenna, AACPS Board Member, saw the Expo for the first time and said, "The Career Expo reinforces our commitment to connecting students with real-world industries. It is a powerful reminder of the vast opportunities available."

Additionally, students tour the busy working boat yard and visit on-site marine companies. John Staub of Diversified Marine Services at Jabin was "blown away" by the engagement of the students. "Rarely does one have busloads of young minds, yearning for mentorship or an opportunity, land in your parking lot."

Students gave the Expo high marks in their post event survey. One happy attendee responded, "I learned that it's not just about building and fixing ships. There's so much more! From scientists to chefs to designers, there's a career for everyone with a wide range of locations and pay."

First time event chair and board member, Vicki Moyer was thrilled with the day's success. "Throughout the day I watched students eyes light up as they learned about opportunities they had no idea were possible." The positive effects were felt before the buses departed as one student landed a summer internship and one was hired for summer jobs.

EYC Foundation furthers their commitment to inspire today's 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 the scholarships and all the EYCF programs at EYCFoundation.org

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