



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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St. Lucie Students Chart Course To Local Maritime Industry

FORT PIERCE, FL -- The Fort Pierce Yacht Club Foundation, in collaboration with the St. Lucie Public Schools, The City of Fort Pierce, Maritime and Marine Industry Representatives and the Fort Pierce Yacht Club, hosted and sponsored **Chart Your Course**, a maritime and marine industry career expo for 100 students from 8th to 11th grades on Thursday, February 23. The event took place at the Fort Pierce Yacht Club, Fort Pierce River Walk Center and the demonstrations were held in the adjoining open space between the two venues.

City of Fort Pierce Mayor Linda Hudson and City Manager, Nick Mimms, along with FPYC Commodore Forest Blanton, welcomed students as they arrived at both venues, the Fort Pierce Yacht Club and the River Walk Center. Facility/Program Specialist at City of Fort Pierce Michelle Kubicheck and Strategic Planning Specialist at City of Fort Pierce Joyce Kobbe provided a gracious welcome at the Riverwalk Center.

Chart Your Course is a collaborative effort of many individuals who generously shared their knowledge and skills in specific fields, exhibited enthusiasm and a positive attitude toward this event. Diane Korbey, past chairperson of the Fort Pierce Yacht Club Foundation, provided the vision for and overall management of the event. “We are all excited and eager to be part of this undertaking and see the Fort Pierce Yacht Club and its Foundation as part of the solution of furthering the future of the marine and Maritime Industry on the Treasure Coast,” said Korbey.

All the students received a booklet created for this event called *Knowledge, Skills and Attitudes* as a resource for them to continue their exploration of the industry and what it takes for them to be a part of it. “We hope the students had lots of opportunities to learn about potential careers in the maritime industry, marine industry, and environmental science related fields,” said Robynn Holland, Chairman of the Fort Pierce Yacht Club Foundation. She continued, “Our intent was to introduce students to various career opportunities in these fields and further to motivate them to select relevant curriculums over the next 1-4 years which will build the skills necessary to be the next industry participants!”

Students from Centennial High, Central High, Forest Grove Middle, and McCarty Middle Schools were introduced to twenty-five plus professionals who discussed their careers in the trades and sciences. The students enjoyed viewing a tugboat and a sailboat, casting fishing lines, tying knots on dock cleats, watching a water surveillance drone fly overhead, and viewing many other demonstrations including those of coastal restoration and aquaculture.



Moderated by Ed Killer, columnist for TCPalm and the St. Lucie News Tribune, a panel of industry professionals discussed a typical day in their industry, how they got their jobs including skills and qualifications necessary for an entry level job, best part of the job, information about competition in the field and answered questions posed by the students.

The panel consisted of Jim Dragseth from Shearwater Marine Florida; Chris Caldwell from Capt. Chris Yacht Services; Richard Ross, President, Longshoreman Union; Petty Officer Snyder from the United States Coast Guard; and Richard King from UESI, Underwater Engineering Services, Inc.

Many thanks to all the industry professionals who shared their career experiences with the students and to the many members of the Fort Pierce Yacht Club who voluntarily assisted in the coordination of the event.

To learn more about the Fort Pierce Yacht Club Foundation, visit www.fortpiercenyachtclub.com.

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About FPYC Foundation: *Fort Pierce Yacht Club Foundation is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization and donations are tax deductible. Founded in 2018 as the charitable arm of the Fort Pierce Yacht Club, it has raised money by hosting various events including a community participation On the Water Poker Run. Funds raised have been given as scholarships for college juniors majoring in marine studies. The selected students have worked for 16 weeks each summer with researchers at FAU Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute. We have proudly put four students through this summer program, and each have gone on to a career in marine biology and most in research.*

Chart Your Course Career Expo Participants Included(alphabetically):

- Captain Chris Yacht Services
- Derecktor
- Ecological Associates, Inc.
- FAU Harbor Branch
- Florida Sea Grant Extension
- Fort Pierce City Marina
- FWC Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
- Guettler Brothers Construction
- Lisa's Kayaks
- Longshoreman Union
- Marine Cleanup Initiative
- McCulley Marina Services
- Pullin' Drag Charters
- Sea Grant Florida
- Seacoast Marine
- Shearwater Boat Yard
- Shearwater Marine FL
- St Lucie County Artificial Reef Program
- St Lucie Outboard
- Stella Maris Environmental Research
- Summerlin's Marine Construction
- SurvTech Solutions
- TC Palm
- TowBoatU.S.
- Treasure Coast Youth Sailing Foundation, Inc
- UESI Underwater Engineering Services, Inc
- United States Coast Guard