

MarineMax partners with Junior Achievement of South Florida to educate next generation, offer opportunities

By Lisa Harrison
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MarineMax

CLEARWATER (Dec. 12, 2022) — MarineMax has partnered with Junior Achievement (JA) of South Florida, a nonprofit organization focused on youth workforce readiness and entrepreneurship. Two projects are currently in the works, both aimed at educating younger generations about the marine industry.

The first program was founded and created in 2018 by Christine Battles with Advanced Mechanical Enterprises. JA of South Florida's "Sea the World" program began with the construction of an educational space called a "store-front."

The organization recently revamped the site promoting a plethora of career opportunities in the marine industry — from sales and marketing to forklift operator and technician, and even expanding into the superyacht crew and port operator opportunities. MarineMax along with other marine industry companies joined forces as proud supporters.

The second program forges a pathway to obtaining a Master Technician's certification. The pre-apprenticeship journeyman program addresses the shortage of certified technicians needed to service the massive increase in boat owners in South Florida and nationwide. The solution to this workforce shortage is to eliminate the barriers of entry for minorities and those with financial limitations and create opportunities that will lead to well-paying careers in the marine industry.

Upon completion of the pre-apprenticeship program, students will have the opportunity to advance to marine technician apprenticeships led by dealerships including FB Marine Group and MarineMax, leading them to a Mercury Marine Master Technician Certification. The first class of 20–25 students recently graduated. Chris Butts, MarineMax University instructor, donated his time to instruct the inaugural class and gave a testimonial on the Junior Achievement LinkedIn page.

But MarineMax has been training up-and-coming technicians for the last eight years through their in-house Student Technician Program. Butts heads up the program and has graduated almost 60 students, with direct placement in a permanent job in one of the 78 MarineMax stores nationwide.

Butts was recently a guest on MarineMax's "From the Helm Boating Broadcast" podcast and goes into detail about the revolutionary program. Some perks include being paid while learning, hands-on training at an actual marina, and six months working side by side with seasoned technicians to learn the trade.

Joining the marine industry can open many doors and provide a lucrative career for students. Educating the next generation is important no matter the industry. It's exciting to share opportunities in the marine field with up-and-coming generations with a shared love for the water, said Butts.

● About Marine Max

MarineMax is the world's largest recreational boat and yacht retailer, selling new and used recreational boats, yachts, and related marine products and services, as well as providing yacht brokerage and charter services. MarineMax has over 125 locations worldwide, including 78 retail dealership locations, some of which include marinas. Collectively, with the IGY acquisition, MarineMax owns or operates 57 marinas worldwide. Through Fraser Yachts and Northrop & Johnson, the Company also is the largest superyacht services provider, operating locations across the globe. Cruisers Yachts, a MarineMax company,

manufactures boats and yachts with sales through our select retail dealership locations and through independent dealers. Intrepid Powerboats, a MarineMax company, manufactures powerboats and sells through a direct-to-consumer model. MarineMax provides finance and insurance services through wholly owned subsidiaries and

operates MarineMax Vacations in Tortola, British Virgin Islands. The Company also owns Boatyard, an industry-leading customer experience digital product company. MarineMax is a New York Stock Exchange-listed company (NYSE: HZO). For more information, visit www.marinemax.com.

Blackton Inc. in Holly Hill to provide flooring for Gardens at Waterstone in Palm Bay

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PALM BAY (Nov. 27, 2022) — Blackton Inc., one of the oldest and largest statewide suppliers of wholesale materials to the homebuilding industry, was awarded a contract to provide flooring for more than 100 new single-family homes KB Home plans to build at their new community Gardens at Waterstone.

Michael Blackton, chief executive officer, said his firm's new Holly Hill location that opened in early 2022 has been providing prompt service to homebuilders along Florida's

east coast from Jacksonville through the Daytona Beach area. "We are excited to continue statewide expansion with KB Home by servicing the Gardens at Waterstone community in south Brevard County."

The new community, located on Mara Loma Boulevard, will offer three-to-six-bedroom homes. The work on two models will get underway in December.

The firm has supplied more than 12,000 new homes by KB Home for the last two decades. Blackton, a family-owned business headquartered on Alden Road north of downtown Orlando with branch locations in South Orlando, Leesburg and Holly Hill, has been supplying the home-building industry from Jacksonville to Tampa for over 65 years.



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