AUSTAL USA Signs the Future of Shipbuilding at Apprentice Signing Day



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MOBILE, Ala. – Austal USA celebrated the next generation of skilled trades professionals today during its Apprentice Signing Day, welcoming almost 50 high school students who have officially committed to begin careers in shipbuilding through

the company’s workforce development program.

Held at the National Maritime Museum of the Gulf, the event brought together students, families, educators, and community leaders to recognize participants from career technical education (CTE) programs across Mobile and Baldwin counties.

“This is an exciting moment not just for these students, but for our entire community,” said Mayor Spiro Cheriogotis. “When Mobilians can move straight from high school into meaningful, high-demand careers here at home, it creates real opportunity for them and strengthens Mobile’s future. This apprenticeship program at Austal shows what can happen when our schools and employers work together to create real opportunities for the next generation.”

Designed to mirror the excitement of collegiate signing days, the ceremony honored students entering high-demand trades including welding, ship fitting, pipe welding, and pipe fitting—career paths that offer immediate opportunities for hands-on work, competitive pay, and long-term advancement.

“Apprentice Signing Day is one of the most exciting milestones for our team because it represents the future of Austal USA and the strength of our workforce,” said Gene Miller, interim president of Austal USA. “These students are making a smart decision to pursue a career in the shipbuilding trade, and we are proud to invest in their success through training, mentorship, and meaningful career opportunities right here in our community.”

Austal USA’s apprenticeship program provides a direct pathway from high school into the workforce, allowing students to earn while they learn, gain industry-recognized skills, and build stable, rewarding careers without taking on student debt.

As demand for skilled workers continues to grow across manufacturing and maritime industries, Austal USA remains committed to partnering with local schools and CTE

programs to build awareness and expand opportunities for students considering their future career paths.

High school students and families interested in exploring apprenticeship opportunities with Austal USA are encouraged to connect with their school's career and technical education counselors or visit Austal USA's careers page on apprenticeships to learn more about upcoming application periods, program requirements, and available trade pathways.