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WoodWorks Graduates Sign with RoyOMartin

High school program helps students directly enter the workforce

Alexandria, LA – (June 14, 2022) -- RoyOMartin celebrated 12 recent high school graduates who successfully completed our WoodWorks certification program and officially hired on as RoyOMartin team members.

Signing events celebrating athletes and other college-bound graduates have become the norm. Joining the workforce of a major industry directly out of high school is also an achievement worth celebrating. RoyOMartin recognized these students' diligence in preparing for their careers with an official event on Tuesday, June 14, 2022, at our corporate headquarters in Alexandria, La. The following graduates signed on as RoyOMartin's newest team members:

- Skylar Laprarie – Pineville High School
- Steven (Jake) Winegart - Oak Hill High School
- Zachary Carlock - Oak Hill High School
- Brody Holt- Oak Hill High School
- Jonathan Moses- Natchitoches Central High School
- Connor Helton – Hicks High School
- Kade Juneau - Northwood High School
- River Thompson (AMT) - Pineville High School
- Eric Cormier – Elizabeth High School
- Dawson King - Oakdale High School
- Alex Marcantel - Kinder High School
- Gavin Hargrove - Glenmora High School
- Joseph Holaday - Hudson ISD (Corrigan, Texas)

Currently offered in 16 central Louisiana and 4 east Texas high schools, RoyOMartin's WoodWorks program is a custom-designed curriculum that covers topics such as applied mathematics, industrial safety, and employability skills. Also included are tours of the company's manufacturing facilities and mentoring by RoyOMartin safety, maintenance, and operations professionals.

"We [RoyOMartin representatives] go into the schools and educate the participating students on the wood-products manufacturing industry," states RoyOMartin Talent and Engagement Manager and WoodWorks facilitator Melanie Chapman. "We make them aware of the career opportunities that are available to them."

Participating high school juniors and seniors can earn credit, a certificate of completion, and a guaranteed interview by RoyOMartin upon successful completion of the program. Once hired, these team members will work at RoyOMartin's OSB and plywood manufacturing facilities three days a week and spend two days enrolled in industry-related classes at Central Louisiana Community Technical College (CLTCC).

Since its launch in 2007, the program has provided an alternative pathway to career success besides college or trade school. There are currently approximately 40 WoodWorks graduates employed by the company.

"It's exciting that they can come of their education ready to work," said Roy O. Martin III, company Chairman, CEO, and CFO. "And we have some great careers for them."

"When we began WoodWorks 15 years ago, our goal was to partner with educators to develop a pipeline of production operators for our manufacturing facilities by offering RoyOMartin career opportunities to local high school students," stated Donna Bailey, RoyOMartin Vice President of Human Resources.

"Our applicant pool for both the program and, subsequently, for our manufacturing facilities has risen to an even higher quality due to the efforts of the individuals here today, as well as those of the many others who help make WoodWorks successful year after year," Bailey continued. "We look forward to continuing our partnerships with local high schools and joining forces with the technical colleges and state workforce commissions to further develop students to become job-ready upon graduation."

"It's not only a college-world out there," Chapman states. "They have an opportunity to seek a career that is very fulfilling right here with RoyOMartin."

Martin added, "We've been in business nearly a hundred years, and that's because of people like [these graduates] who come to work for us and make a great career of it, and the reason we can last another hundred years."

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About RoyOMartin

RoyOMartin is the trade name of a group of vertically integrated companies owned by the Martin family focused on land, timber, and mineral resources, with special emphasis on sustainable forests and forest-product manufacturing businesses. The RoyOMartin name honors the business pioneer and Martin family patriarch, Roy O. Martin Sr., who began with a small sawmill in Alexandria, Louisiana, in 1923, and soon thereafter began acquiring timberland. For more information, visit www.royomartin.com.

WATCH: View the video of RoyOMartin-WoodWorks Signing Day here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eBgO7s0VVzE>



Photo cutline: (Group Photo, L to R) Zachary Carlock (Oak Hill High); Alex Marcantel (Kinder High); Jake Winegart (Oak Hill High); River Thompson (Pineville High); Skylar Laprarie (Pineville High); Brody Holt (Oak Hill High School); Eric Cormier (Elizabeth High); Connor Helton (Hicks High); Jonathan Moses (Natchitoches Central); Dawson King (Oakdale High); Kade Juneau (Northwood High); and Joseph Holaday (Hudson ISD - Texas).