

Forrest Career and Technology Center Partners with SkillsUSA and Klein Tools to Recognize High School Seniors Entering the Skilled Trades During National Signing Day

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Leonardtown, MD - On May 8, 2019 Dr. James A. Forrest Career and Technology Center (JFTC)— In order to help close the skills gap and raise awareness of career options in the skilled trades, the Forrest Center today participated in SkillsUSA National Signing Day Sponsored by Klein Tools, celebrating thousands of high school seniors across the country pursuing a career in the skilled trades. The Forrest Center was one of approximately 300 schools across the U.S. participating in National Signing Day, which recognized over 2,500 students nationwide.

"We are thrilled we were able to partner with SkillsUSA and Klein Tools' for the first-ever National Signing Day," says Michael Egan, principal of the Forrest Center "As the shortage of skilled workers worsens, we at the Forrest Center encourage students to enter this rewarding industry upon graduation. Our seniors should be very proud of everything they have accomplished here as they continue to further their education and training post-graduation. We wish them all the best as they prepare for their lifelong careers."

In a style similar to "National Signing Day" events for high school student athletes, 9 high school seniors from the Electrical Wiring program were recognized as they signed their "letters of intent" for a job offer, apprenticeship or advanced technical training. Students were celebrated among school administrators, teachers, SkillsUSA advisors, family and friends, as they take the next step in their education in residential wiring, building trades and renovations, HVAC or plumbing. High school seniors also received a Klein Tools Signing Kit, which included a hat, t-shirt, and their first pair of Klein Tools pliers to begin their lifelong careers.

"This was an exciting day for our students as they committed to careers in the skilled trades," says Michael Towne, Electrical Wiring Instructor and SkillsUSA advisor at the school. "These seniors have worked hard over the years to prepare for this next chapter of their life. Through their education here our seniors understand the hard work needed to be successful in the trades. This recognition is very well deserved to each and every one of them."

"The first National Signing Day was a success thanks to the Forrest Center and its students," says Mark Klein, co-president of Klein Tools. "Best of luck to these students as they enter the skilled trades to start their careers with their first pair of Klein Tools pliers."

For Additional information on the electrical wiring program as well as other Forrest Center programs visit the school's website at <https://schools.smcps.org/tech/>

For more information on National Signing Day, visit: www.kleintools.com/nsd.

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