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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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Piper Aircraft Externship Highlights the Importance of Hands-On Learning for Master's Academy Students

Externship bridges classroom learning with real-world application in avionics, engineering, and career development.

VERO BEACH, FL - In an era where real-world experience is more critical than ever for career readiness, **Piper Aircraft's Externship Program** is leading the way in providing young people with invaluable hands-on learning opportunities. Through a partnership with Southern Illinois University (SIU), Piper Aircraft offers students direct exposure to the aviation industry, equipping them with technical and mechanical skills essential for future careers.

For the first time in the program's history, two high school students—**Master's Academy** freshmen **Bodhi Brown** and **Stover Witte**—were selected to participate, breaking new ground in the field of vocational education. Traditionally reserved for college students enrolled in flight programs or working as flight instructors, this prestigious externship now serves as a bridge for younger students seeking early immersion into aviation technology and engineering.

"This externship was an incredible experience that solidified my passion for aviation," said Stover Witte. "After spending the week at Piper Aircraft, I would be overjoyed to return as a career professional one day."

Throughout the externship, participants engaged in a variety of aviation industry activities requiring expert knowledge, including welding, tooling, thermoplastics, structural analysis, and electrical systems. For Bodhi Brown, who is actively working toward obtaining his pilot's license, the experience was particularly meaningful.

"I had a great experience at Piper over Spring Break," Brown shared. "We learned about the many jobs at Piper and even painted model airplanes with real aircraft paint. The team at Piper took the time to teach us as much as possible, and I'll never forget this week."

This opportunity aligns with Master's Academy's distinctive **Vocational Technology Program**, reinforcing the school's commitment to career readiness and workforce development. By integrating practical, hands-on learning experiences with academic studies, students gain critical insights that traditional classroom instruction alone cannot provide.

Dr. Rick Brewer, Head of School at Master's Academy, emphasized the significance of such partnerships in shaping the future workforce.

"We are incredibly grateful for the vision and leadership of Piper CEO **John Calcagno**, whose dedication to hands-on education made this externship possible," said Dr. Brewer. "Investing in the next generation of aviation professionals is crucial, and we look forward to continuing to provide our students with these transformative opportunities."

Calcagno reinforced the importance of hands-on learning opportunities for the future workforce. "At Piper Aircraft, we recognize that the future of aviation depends on equipping young minds with real-world experiences. We are proud to

provide students like Bodhi and Stover with opportunities to explore careers in aerospace and develop technical skills that will serve them well. Investing in the next generation is not only a responsibility—it is a privilege.”

Master’s Academy extends its deepest appreciation to the Piper Aircraft team for their mentorship and for fostering a culture of experiential learning. As apprenticeships and externships gain momentum as essential workforce development tools, initiatives like this underscore the value of equipping students with practical, industry-relevant skills.

For more information about Master’s Academy, please contact the school at (772) 794-4655.

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ABOUT MASTER’S ACADEMY of VERO BEACH

Master’s Academy is a fully ACSI-accredited private school serving Pre-K through Grade 12 students in the Treasure Coast region of Florida. Since 1998, the school has been committed to spiritually developing and academically challenging students to impact their world for Christ. With a rigorous, college-preparatory curriculum and a dedicated, caring faculty, Master’s Academy provides a Christ-centered education that equips students for success in college and beyond.

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