



Barnwell School District 45

Innovation – Integrity – Investment – Community

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BHS Student Attends International Business Roundtable on Apprenticeships in the U.S.

Barnwell, S.C. December 16, 2021 – Swiss Krono USA participated in a Roundtable meeting in Washington, D.C. with Mr. Guy Parmelin, President of the Swiss Confederation and Minister of Economic Affairs, Education and Research. The meeting discussed the current state of Apprenticeships in the U.S. and was attended by a council of officials from Switzerland, Swiss companies operating in the U.S., U.S. representatives from the Department of Labor, U.S. Department of Education, and U.S. companies utilizing Apprenticeship programs.

Swiss Krono representatives Todd Mankin and Youth Apprentice TyZavier Grayson also attended a reception at the Residence of the Ambassador of Switzerland to the U.S., Mr. Jacques Pitteloud, at which Barnwell High School's (BHS) Youth Apprentice TyZavier Grayson took questions from President Parmelin. Many officials attended the reception including Senator Amy Klobuchar of Minnesota, Deputy Secretary Don Graves, Dr. Tracy Dove, Scientific Advisor to the Swiss Embassy, representatives from the Apprenticeship Department in Washington D.C., and many other officials.

Grayson is a current junior at BHS and has been a Swiss Krono Youth Apprentice since August 16, 2021, where he works as a production operator. After high school, Grayson plans to continue working at Swiss Krono while also pursuing an Associate's Degree. "I am extremely blessed and grateful for the opportunity to be a Youth Apprentice at Swiss Krono," Grayson shared. "Being selected as the first Apprentice to represent BHS and Swiss Krono in Washington, D.C. was an amazing experience that I will never forget." Mankin had this to say about the experience: "It was an honor to represent Swiss Krono at this event and a huge learning experience for our young apprentice, TyZavier."

The apprenticeship partnership between Barnwell School District 45 and Swiss Krono came to fruition back in 2016 and has recently expanded from hiring two apprentices per cycle to more than ten apprentices for high school students in our community and surrounding communities. According to Franklin McCormack, Principal at BHS, "Make no mistake about it. TyZavier Grayson is one of many great students at BHS. However, the opportunity to represent an entire organization, Swiss Krono, and help showcase this wonderful program, is a testament to the high caliber of students that attend our school,

the fantastic families from which they come, and the teachers who prepare them for the future. I am so proud of TyZavier; he is so humble yet deserving of this opportunity.”



Photo 1 - Dr. Mikota, President of Spartanburg Community College, Amy Firestone – VP Apprenticeship Carolina and President Parmelin of Switzerland



Photo 2 - President Guy Parmelin of Switzerland

In Attendance

Switzerland Officials: President Guy Parmelin, Martina Hirayama - State Secretary for Education, Research and Innovation and Marie-Gabrielle Ineichen-Fleisch - State Secretary for Economic Affairs.

U.S. Officials: Deputy Secretary Don Graves, Brent Parton - Department of Labor, Amy Loyd - Department of Education.

Swiss Companies in the US: Martin Ritter - CEO Stadler, Andre Kudelski - CEO Nagra, Todd Mankin - Training Coordinator Swiss Krono.

US Companies: Intertech Plastics - Ryan Gensler, Aon - Bridget Gainer/Daniel Serota, CVS - Charnetia Young/Peter Virgil.