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Images and Videos available on request

## **The Landing School Hosts Virtual Ceremonies for Graduates**

*Through online and remote training, post-secondary students cross the finish line*

**Arundel, ME (May 18, 2020)**—Students at The Landing School in Arundel, Maine, are presenting their final projects and receiving their diplomas over the next few weeks and months despite the numerous obstacles afforded by the COVID-19 outbreak. This past Friday, students with the Yacht Design Program celebrated via a virtual graduation with family, friends, school supporters, board members, faculty, and staff, while the Wooden Boat Building Program will host an onsite, socially distanced “model review” this coming Friday, May 22.

To commemorate the event, President Richard Downs-Honey visited local students with members of the school’s faculty and board of directors to deliver letters of congratulations and appreciation [video available].

Prior to graduation, students must complete a certain number of classroom and practical hours before submitting a capstone project, senior exhibit, or show evidence of proficiency in their line of study. For the Yacht Design students, this translated to a single boat design that brought together all they’ve learned at the school, while demonstrating a vessel that showcased their individual tastes. The Wooden Boat Building Program allowed its students to work from home on models, with guided instruction, to be evaluated prior to their graduation this coming Friday.

“This year really illustrates the resilience and flexibility of our students and faculty,” Richard Downs-Honey, President of The Landing School, says. “When the COVID-19 crisis hit, most of the students were nearing the end of their classroom work and were launching their hands-on training. We were able to support them through online meetings, shipped materials, and a handful of internships at yards that have been labeled ‘essential business’.”

The Yacht Design Program is an eight-month program, but three of this year’s ten YD students are graduating with an Associate of Applied Science Degree in Marine Industry Technology (MIT) after also completing one other program at The Landing School. Furthermore, students are eligible to pursue Bachelor’s degrees through The Landing School’s partner universities.

Overall, the school has approximately 50 students ranging in ages from 18 to 57 in four two-semester programs: Yacht Design, Composite Boat Building, Marine Systems, and Wooden Boat Building. The remaining programs at The Landing School will host graduation ceremonies as permitted in the coming weeks and months.

“We have viewed this academic year as an opportunity to expand how we offer training to our students,” Downs-Honey continues. “We look forward to greeting our new students this fall, as we have every year for over 40 years, but with even more open minds about how to train the future of this industry.” The Landing School has open enrollment and is currently accepting applications for the 2020–21 academic year.

**The Landing School**—Established in southern Maine in 1978, The Landing School has one mission: to train the future of the marine industry. Accredited by The Accrediting Commission of Career Schools and Colleges (ACCSC), The Landing School reinforces and preserves traditional design and construction methods while advancing the art of boat building, design, and maintenance through the integration of modern techniques and contemporary materials. The school is currently accepting applications for the 2020–21 academic year.