

# A New Role for Community and Technical Colleges in Maritime Workforce Training

*Tom Downs – The Future of the Workforce panel – AAPA Spring Conference 2018* 

### Established Precedent: Federally-Supported State Maritime Academy (SMA) System



- BA-granting institutions located in six states
- Each SMA receives annual federal funding, a training ship and other assets, and student scholarships funds
- SMAs train the merchant marine officer, engineer and other maritime professionals for international shipping

#### **GAO Report, 2014:**

"MARAD Primarily Supports the Needs of Oceangoing Maritime Industry, Raising Concerns among Stakeholders about Training Implications for Domestic Maritime Industry"

#### **General Accountability Office (GAO) findings:**

- The oceangoing sector of the U.S. maritime industry has declined
- In contrast, the domestic sector has either held steady or seen growth in economic activity and investment
- State Maritime Academies lack curriculum for the domestic sector
- 14 community colleges around the country provide training for both oceangoing and domestic maritime workforce

**Building on** the Progress of Regional Community College Maritime Consortiums

- Southeast Maritime and Transportation Center (SMART) consortium
- Mississippi River Transportation, Distribution & Logistics (MRTDL) consortium
- North Coast Marine Manufacturing Alliance (Great Lakes)
- Blue Tech consortium (San Diego area)



Community and Technical College Maritime Workforce Consortium

## Community and Technical College Domestic Maritime Centers of Excellence

In December 2017, the President signed the Domestic Maritime Centers of Excellence Act. Centers of Excellence at 2year colleges will receive assistance to prepare for workers for jobs, including –

- <u>Mariner</u> Able bodied seaman, barge operator, radar observer, tankerman, fire-fighter and other onboard workers
- <u>Port operations</u> Supply chain, marine transportation logistics, security, etc.
- <u>Marine Technology</u> Underwater welding, ROV, UAS/drones, etc.

