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

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