What are opportunities, trends and partnerships when it comes to developing our workforce?

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Advancing the Workforce Talent Pipeline: Multi-State Community College Consortium Advocacy
Multi-State Community College Consortium Advocacy

Justification for this Approach

- It’s challenging to accomplish results on a national level for a single community college or other institution
- Combinations, or consortiums of institutions, can achieve results where there are common goals and objectives
- We are advancing new national programs to benefit community college consortiums, in coordination with industry partnerships
Community Colleges Involved in Ongoing Consortium Advocacy

= individual college
= statewide system
Domestic Maritime Centers of Excellence
Domestic Maritime Centers of Excellence

- Congress has authorized a new “centers of excellence” workforce program for community colleges in maritime training and education.
- The Domestic Maritime Centers of Excellence program complements the federally supported system of university-based State Maritime Academies that prepare Merchant Marine Officers for careers in international shipping.
- Domestic Maritime Centers of Excellence will educate and train students for entry-level jobs and upskill incumbent workers for careers in ports, inland waterways and the Great Lakes.
- This includes training for jobs onboard vessels as well as shoreside jobs, such as in transportation, distribution and logistics, and port management.
A consortium of 2-year public colleges in 15 states is coordinating their efforts to prepare for the Domestic Maritime Centers of Excellence program.

The community and technical college maritime workforce consortium has held national conferences along the Texas Gulf Coast (June 2018), in San Diego (Jan. 2019), and in Norfolk (June 2019).


The consortium is collaborating with AAPA, and with American Waterways Operators, Marine Technology Society and American Trucking Association.
Community College Centers of Excellence in Small Unmanned Aircraft System (Drone) Technology Training
Community College Centers of Excellence in Small Unmanned Aircraft System Technology Training

- Congress has created a centers of excellence program for community colleges in drone training and education
- The new program complements the federally funded university centers of excellence system focused on military and intelligence applications of larger drones
- Community College Centers of Excellence in Small Unmanned Aircraft System Technology Training will focus on practical applications of small drones – in transportation, distribution, logistics, maritime, law enforcement, search and rescue, wildfire prevention, etc.
“The community college level of education is the ‘sweet spot’ for reducing the skills gap in manufacturing. Increased investment in this sector is recommended.”

– President’s Council of Advisors on Science and Technology
Congress has created a new program to help institutions enhance their capabilities to educate and train workers for jobs in advanced manufacturing.

Originally proposed as the Manufacturing Universities Act, it was enacted as the Manufacturing and Engineering Partnership Program (MEEP), under the Office of the Secretary of Defense, with grant authority delegated to the Office of Naval Research.

Through the appropriations process, Congress has clarified that funding under the MEEP program is to be prioritized for community colleges.
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