

MARITIME ADMINISTRATION
U.S. Department of Transportation

Center of Excellence (CoE) for Domestic Workforce Training and Education

Bunker Hill Community College – Charlestown, Massachusetts

The Secretary of Transportation designates Bunker Hill Community College (BHCC) as a 2026 Center of Excellence for developing technical trade pipelines in the New England coastal economy. Adjacent to the Port of Boston, BHCC provides local ashore career pathways that address regional labor shortages and open entry points to the commercial marine transportation and service system.

Operational Footprint & Assets

BHCC's training framework focuses on technical systems mechanics, shoreside vessel maintenance, and collaborative facility execution.

- **Standardized Trade Curricula:** Delivers a 200-hour Fundamentals of Marine Technology track covering marine electrical circuits, diagnostics, outboard engine maintenance, and environmental compliance.
- **Industry-Aligned Certifications:** Integrates direct testing pathways for stackable credentials, including the Mercury University M-TEK dashboard and American Boat and Yacht Council technical standards.
- **Cooperative Infrastructure Projects:** Coordinates with regional operators on joint initiatives, including an active municipal proposal for a dedicated waterfront instructional space to expand hands-on vessel access

Workforce & Regional Impact

The program targets a critical skilled labor deficit in Massachusetts moving local talent directly into active shipyard operations.

- **Workforce Pipeline Integration:** Leveraging its extensive regional commuter network, BHCC effectively transitions local workforce candidates into sustainable maritime trades.
- **Shipyard Mentorship Frameworks:** Agreements with organizations like Boston Boat Works, Courageous Sailing Center, and Safe Harbor Marinas embed trainees into active service roles covering advanced composite fabrication and harbor yard operations.
- **Labor Placements & Support:** Sustains an 86 percent completion rate across cohorts, moving graduates into immediate employment at an average starting wage of \$25.00 per hour under approved state Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act vendor funding.

Strategic Outlook

BHCC is standardizing its workforce curriculum into a credit-bearing certificate program. In times of national need, BHCC's established K-12 trade pipelines and graduate tracking database enable the college to function as scalable regional hub to mobilize certified personnel rapidly during national emergencies.