

MARITIME ADMINISTRATION
U.S. Department of Transportation
Center of Excellence (CoE) for Domestic Workforce Training and Education

Community College of Rhode Island – Warwick, Rhode Island

The Secretary of Transportation redesignates the Community College of Rhode Island (CCRI) as a Center of Excellence for Domestic Maritime Workforce Training and Education (CoE) for its leadership in submarine manufacturing workforce development, offshore wind safety credentials, and extensive maritime industry partnerships. Based in Warwick, Rhode Island, CCRI serves as the principal postsecondary driver for the state's defense, shipbuilding, and commercial marine sectors.

Operational Footprint & Assets

Offers 11 specialized afloat and ashore career training tracks delivered across its four statewide campuses, the Westerly Education Center, and aboard working vessel platforms.

- **Submarine Shipbuilding Pipeline (Electric Boat Partnership):** Delivers customized industrial trades instruction in Maritime Pipefitting, Maritime Electrical, Maritime Sheet Metal, Maritime Paint, and Maritime Rigging. Coursework is delivered at the Westerly Education Center to support General Dynamics Electric Boat's Quonset, RI and Groton, CT shipyards in constructing *Virginia*-class and *Columbia*-class submarines for the U.S. Navy.
- **Electric Boat Registered Apprenticeship:** Operates four registered apprenticeship tracks culminating in an Associate in Science (A.S.) degree in Advanced Manufacturing Technology or Business Administration, alongside a completion credential from Electric Boat.
- **SSV *OLIVER HAZARD PERRY* Platform:** Partners with Oliver Hazard Perry Rhode Island to offer a 20-day, full-time Maritime Careers Training program aboard Rhode Island's flagship tall ship, incorporating STCW Basic Training, marlinspike seamanship, marine electrical, and engine maintenance.
- **Offshore Wind Safety Hub (GWO Facility):** Launched Rhode Island's first Global Wind Organization (GWO) Basic Safety Training (BST) facility to provide safety credentials for offshore wind farm construction and maintenance technicians.
- **Pre-Apprenticeships & Youth Programs:** Partners with the Rhode Island Marine Trades Association (RIMTA) for a 3-week Pre-Apprenticeship Boat & Composites training and conducts youth wooden boatbuilding programs for students aged 8 to 17.

Workforce & Regional Impact

Operates in close alignment with state workforce initiatives, defense contractors, and maritime trade associations.

- **High Placement in Defense Trades:** Maintains a 96% completion and placement rate across its Electric Boat manufacturing training tracks (including Pipefitting, Electrical, Sheet Metal, Paint, and Rigging), with 100% of graduating students continuing into employment at General Dynamics Electric Boat.
- **Substantial Student Throughput:** Trained over 1,460 students in Maritime Pipefitting, 773 in Maritime Electrical, 330 in Maritime Paint, 327 in Maritime Sheet Metal, and 438 in Maritime

OSHA 10/30.

- **State & High School Partnerships:** Designated as a Real Jobs Rhode Island (RJRI) partner under the RI Department of Labor and Training. Collaborates with Coventry High School and Westerly High School Regional Career and Technical Centers to provide high school students with dual-credit maritime trades training.
- **Career Access & Industry Entry:** Utilizes the Maritime Trades Exposure program to introduce prospective candidates to trade careers, providing participants with foundational skill-building and priority hiring pathways at Electric Boat.

Strategic Outlook

Supported by federal Title III funding, the Rhode Island Governor's Workforce Board, and the United States Maritime Resource Center (USMRC), CCRI continues to expand its workforce training solutions. By integrating defense shipbuilding apprenticeships, commercial mariner STCW credentials, and emerging renewable energy safety certifications, the Community College of Rhode Island maintains a vital talent pipeline powering the regional blue economy and national security infrastructure.