

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

Carteret Community College – Morehead City, North Carolina

The Secretary of Transportation redesignates Carteret Community College (CCC) as a Center of Excellence for Domestic Maritime Workforce Training and Education (CoE) for its coastal infrastructure, specialized marine trade tracks, and robust public-private industry partnerships. Situated along the shores of Bogue Sound in Morehead City, North Carolina, CCC serves as a primary workforce development hub for eastern North Carolina's commercial fishing, boatbuilding, port logistics, and military support sectors.

Operational Footprint & Assets

Instructional ecosystem blends state-of-the-art laboratory infrastructure with specialized industry accreditations across both afloat and ashore disciplines.

- **NC MARTEC Facility:** Operates the 23,000-square-foot North Carolina Marine Training & Education Center (MARTEC), featuring dedicated fiberglass, paint, marine woodworking, diesel, and outboard engine laboratories.
- **Saltwater Aquaculture Infrastructure:** Houses the Howard Building and a waterfront demonstration center equipped with pier access, oyster reefs, and grow tanks supplied directly with fresh saltwater from Bogue Sound. CCC offers the only saltwater aquaculture program in the North Carolina Community College System.
- **USCG-Approved Merchant Mariner Courses:** Delivers USCG-approved training for Able Seaman, Operator of Uninspected Passenger Vessels (OUPV / Six-Pack), Deck Watch Officer, Upgrade Master 100 to 200 Tons (Near Coastal), Assistance Towing, and Auxiliary Sail Endorsements.
- **Industry Accreditations & Partnerships:** Recognized as an American Boat and Yacht Council (ABYC) Marine League School and an official Yamaha Outboard Technical School Partner, offering manufacturer certifications in Marine Maintenance and Systems. Maintains an American Welding Society (AWS) certified training program achieving over a 90% certification success rate.
- **Ashore Technical Tracks:** Provides structured diploma, degree, and short-term certificate pathways in Boat Manufacture & Service, Marine Propulsion Systems (the only certificate program of its kind in the state), Diesel & Heavy Equipment, Commercial Driver's License (CDL), and Culinary Arts & Hospitality Management.

Workforce & Regional Impact

Plays a vital role in supporting local boat builders, state ferry operations, regional research facilities, and defense installations.

- **USCG Course Throughput (2021–2024):** Executed a total of 88 USCG-approved courses and issued 877 Course Completion Certificates during the 2021–2024 timeframe.
- **High Completion Rates:** Enrolls over 1,000 students annually in maritime-related courses,

consistently maintaining course completion rates above 90% across both curriculum and USCG-approved mariner programs.

- **NC Ferry Division & Commercial Fleet Pipeline:** Partners directly with the North Carolina Ferry Division to recruit and train vessel crews, providing Able Seaman certifications and developing custom Lifeboatman and STCW firefighting tracks.
- **Boatbuilding & Shipyard Academies:** Created a dedicated 96-hour Boat Building Academy in partnership with local manufacturers (achieving a 100% placement rate) and collaborated with Safe Harbor Jarrett Bay Boatworks to support shipyard workforce needs.
- **Scientific & Defense Sector Collaboration:** Provides and trains crew members for research vessels operated by Duke University Marine Lab (*R/V Shearwater*) and GeoDynamics. Serves active-duty service members and veterans transitioning from USCG Sector North Carolina, MCAS Cherry Point, and Camp Lejeune.

Strategic Outlook

Supported by state capital investments and federal grants (including USDA NIFA and NC Sea Grant initiatives), Carteret Community College is advancing construction of its Workforce Center for Construction Trades & Transportation Technologies to expand its welding, automotive, and heavy equipment capacities, ensuring eastern North Carolina maintains a highly skilled workforce to support commercial shipping, vessel construction, and coastal infrastructure.