

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

Delaware County Community College – Media, Pennsylvania

The Maritime Administration designated Delaware County Community College (DCCC) as a Center of Excellence (CoE) for Domestic Maritime Workforce Training and Education in 2021 and redesignated the College in 2024 for its leadership in skilled trades, industrial shipbuilding training, and regional workforce alliances across the Greater Philadelphia area. Located in Media, Pennsylvania, DCCC serves as a principal educational engine supporting the Delaware River and Bay port system and a regional and national leader in developing the skilled workforce needed for shipbuilding, port and cargo operations, maritime manufacturing, and the broader maritime industrial base.

Operational Footprint & Assets

- **Philadelphia Regional Maritime Training Center:** Operates through the Collegiate Consortium for Workforce and Economic Development to deliver industrial maritime training, including welding, shipbuilding trades, foundry operations, rigging, crane operations, safety, and leadership.
- **Workforce & Economic Development Division:** Delivers career preparation across cargo and material handling, casting/molding, LEAN Manufacturing, Six Sigma, forklift operation, transportation logistics, crane and rigging safety, hand signals, mooring operations, hazardous materials awareness, confined-space safety, OSHA maritime safety, and CPR/AED/First Aid.
- **\$8 Million U.S. Department of Labor Shipbuilding Initiative:** DCCC leads *Building the Future: U.S. Shipbuilding Workforce Expansion Through Global Collaboration*, an \$8 million federal initiative developed with Hanwha Philly Shipyard (HPSI), Hanwha Ocean, the Collegiate Consortium, and other domestic and international partners. Part of DCCC's broader workforce portfolio (\$13.8 million in total projects), this initiative expands the U.S. shipbuilding workforce through internationally informed curricula, registered apprenticeship expansion, faculty and worker exchanges, an international shipbuilding fellowship, and replicable community college training models to prepare at least 1,456 individuals for maritime careers.
- **Port, Cargo Handling & Longshoring Workforce:** Partners with maritime labor, including the International Longshoremen's Association (ILA), and industry partners to provide specialized training for longshore, marine terminal, and cargo-handling occupations.
- **Consortium & Regional Partners:** Collaborates directly with Hanwha Philly Shipyard, Hanwha Ocean, PhilaPort, International Longshoremen's Association (ILA), Maritime Exchange for the Delaware River and Bay, Philadelphia Carpenters Joint Apprenticeship & Training Fund, MITAGS, SUNY Maritime College, Massachusetts Maritime Academy, Pennsylvania CareerLink®, regional high schools, community-based organizations, workforce development boards, and international maritime education partners.

Maritime Workforce Training and Career Pathways

- **Comprehensive Education Pathways:** Provides maritime workforce education spanning

career awareness, pre-apprenticeship, registered apprenticeship, entry-level occupational training, incumbent-worker upskilling, and advanced technical/simulation training for shoreside maritime occupations.

- **Pre-Apprenticeship Pipeline:** Focuses on pre-apprenticeship-to-registered-apprenticeship pathways connecting high school students, young adults, career changers, veterans, and dislocated workers to foundational technical, safety, and employability skills necessary for shipbuilding and maritime careers.

- **Shipbuilding & Registered Apprenticeships:** Partners with Hanwha Philly Shipyard (HPSI) through the Collegiate Consortium to provide Related Technical Instruction paired with paid on-the-job learning for skilled shipbuilding trades.

Workforce & Regional Impact

- **Direct Industry Support:** Directly supports commercial shipping, shipbuilding, marine terminals, and logistics sectors along the Delaware River corridor.

- **Enrolled Student Volume:** Enrolled 708 students in 2021–2022; 602 students in 2022–2023; 817 students in 2023–2024; and 846 students in 2024–2025 across its ashore maritime-related technical programs.

- **High Retention & Completion Rates:** Achieved a 98% retention/completion rate in 2021–2022 and a 97% rate in 2022–2023.

- **Student Composition & Upskilling:** 98% of students in DCCC's maritime ashore programs are incumbent workers attending part-time to upgrade technical skills and earn cross-sector credentials. The remaining 2% are dual-enrollment students in pre-apprenticeship programs leading into shipbuilding apprenticeships.

- **Port Infrastructure Expansion:** Supports workforce demand generated by the 45-foot Delaware River main channel deepening project and PhilaPort's container volume growth.

- **Academic Articulation & Transfer Pathways:** Maintains bachelor's degree completion and transfer agreements with over 40 colleges and universities.

Strategic Outlook

Supported by state investments through the Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry and multi-million-dollar federal shipbuilding grants, Delaware County Community College is positioning itself as a comprehensive workforce hub serving shipbuilding, ports, cargo handling, marine terminals, transportation, logistics, and maritime manufacturing. By expanding technical pre-apprenticeships, registered apprenticeships, and international collaborations with partners like Hanwha Philly Shipyard and Hanwha Ocean, DCCC secures a sustainable pipeline of skilled workers essential to maintaining domestic vessel manufacturing and Delaware River maritime infrastructure.