

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

Delgado Community College – New Orleans, Louisiana

The Secretary of Transportation redesignates Delgado Community College (DCC) as a Center of Excellence for Domestic Maritime Workforce Training and Education (CoE) for its leadership in inland and offshore mariner credentialing, simulation technology, and Mississippi River / Gulf Coast industry partnerships. Operating from its 6.8-acre state-of-the-art Maritime and Industrial Training Center in New Orleans East, DCC serves as a primary educational engine for Louisiana's water transportation sector, an industry contributing \$47.7 billion to the state economy.

Operational Footprint & Assets

Provides USCG-approved mariner licensing, specialized safety certifications, and advanced simulation facilities.

- **Delgado Maritime and Industrial Training Center:** Operates a 6.8-acre campus in New Orleans East featuring full-mission bridge simulators (including z-drive and CPP configurations), an XVR virtual reality command and control lab, live-fire burn buildings, and specialized towboat fire props.
- **Campus Expansion Projects:** Constructed a \$1.7M deckhand training facility (funded in part by the EDA) featuring a dedicated classroom, teaching galley, and training barges to simulate work and life aboard a vessel. Added a donated three-story towboat fire prop from Florida Marine, LLC for realistic confined-space firefighting. Firefighting upgrades, simulator modernization, new maritime routes and software enhancements, and XVR Virtual Reality training systems for emergency management, port operations, and industrial facilities. These improvements strengthen training capacity and workforce readiness.
- **Afloat & Ashore Career Tracks:** Delivers USCG-approved and STCW-compliant coursework across 4 primary career pathways:
 - **Inland Mariner (Deck):** Deckhand, Tankerman, Steersman / Apprentice Mate, Master of Towing.
 - **Offshore Mariner (Deck):** Ordinary Seaman, Able Bodied Seaman (AB), Mate, Master.
 - **Offshore Mariner (Engine):** Wiper, QMED, Assistant Engineer, Chief Engineer.
 - **Dynamic Positioning:** OSVDPA-approved Phase 4 Watchkeeping simulator assessments.
 - **USCG Annual Student Throughput:** Trained 6,136 mariners in FY21–22, 6,614 in FY22–23, and 6,108 in FY23–24 across USCG-approved courses, achieving a 99.5%+ course completion rate.

Workforce & Regional Impact

Collaborates with over 200 maritime employers, port authorities, and regional workforce boards.

- **Industry Partnership Volume:** Approximately 88% of all trainees enrolled at the Center are

company-sponsored incumbent workers upgrading or revalidating credentials for employers like Canal Barge, Chem Carriers, Enterprise Marine, Florida Marine Transporters, Turn Services, and Port NOLA.

- **High School & Youth Outreach:** Actively collaborates with *We Are The Waterways* to host maritime career awareness events, including major showcases at the International WorkBoat Show and NOMMA (February). Enrolls cadets from the New Orleans Military & Maritime Academy (NOMMA) in dual-enrollment Certificate of Technical Studies (CTS) programs.
- **Community & Transition Programs:** Partnered with Café Reconcile, Odyssey House, and Coastal Communities Consulting to train workers dislocated by the COVID-19 pandemic, placing 80%+ of program graduates directly into deckhand careers.
- **Multi-College Regional Alliances:** Founding member of the National Maritime Workforce Alliance and partner in the \$50M Houma-based Louisiana marine research and training consortium.

Strategic Outlook

Positioned along the nation's premier inland river corridor, DCC continues expanding its technical capacity to address national mariner shortages. By adding virtual reality command modules, building dedicated deckhand training barges, and expanding state-wide community college credit articulations (e.g., with Northshore Technical Community College), Delgado ensures a steady supply of credentialed mariners essential to Mississippi River commerce, Gulf offshore energy, and national maritime security. Delgado will maintain 24/7 operational readiness to train mariners for domestic and international vessel operations, support MARAD workforce initiatives, enhance supply chain resilience, and expand maritime workforce development opportunities.