

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

MiraCosta College– Oceanside & Carlsbad, California

The Secretary of Transportation redesignates the MiraCosta College (MCC) as a Center of Excellence for Domestic Maritime Workforce Training and Education (CoE) for its leadership in accelerated "Blue Tech" instruction, high-tier technical certifications, and extensive industry partnerships. MCC fuels San Diego County's ocean technology, defense, and shipbuilding sectors through a two-site model combining academic STEM transfer pathways with accelerated technical credentials.

Operational Footprint & Assets

- **Oceanside Main Campus (Academic STEM Pipeline):** Delivers associate degrees (AA/AS) and 2-to-4-year transfer pathways to elite institutions like UC San Diego / Scripps Institution of Oceanography. Features labs for oceanography, marine biology, biomanufacturing, and SolidWorks CAD design.
- **Carlsbad Technology Career Institute (TCI Workforce Hub):** Operates a dedicated 10,000+ sq. ft. facility offering non-credit fast-track certificates across primary maritime tracks:
 - *Unmanned Systems:* Subsea Remotely Operated Vehicles (ROVs), Autonomous Underwater Vehicles (AUVs), Unmanned Surface Vehicles (USVs), and Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS).
 - *Machining Technology:* Manual and CNC precision machining for marine components.
 - *Engineering Technician:* Robotics, PLCs, pneumatics, optics, and automation.
 - *Electronic Assembly:* IPC-certified micro-electronics and subsea sensor soldering.
 - *Welding:* SMAW, GMAW (MIG), GTAW (TIG/Steel/Aluminum), and plasma cutting.
 - *Aquaculture & Fisheries Technology:* Marine resource technology launched in 2024.
- **Industry Credentials:** FAA UAS-CTI member issuing FAA Part 107, IPC J-STD-001/A-610, CCST, ETA, and AWS certifications.

Workforce & Regional Impact

MiraCosta TCI acts as a primary talent pipeline for San Diego's 1,400+ ocean technology companies, providing skilled technicians to support shipbuilding, defense contracting, and subsea engineering.

- **Audited 4-Year Performance Outcomes (2018–2022):** Served 1,332 total unique participants, enrolled 1,168 in education/training activities, and achieved 1,201 program completions/credentials. Sustained a 98% retention rate and achieved a 90%+ job placement rate, successfully placing 1,012 unemployed/underemployed graduates into active workforce roles alongside 254 incumbent worker job advancements.
- **Paid Internship Pipeline:** Placed 207 students into hands-on industry internships totaling over

14,819 work-experience hours under a \$3.5M state grant initiative.

- **Strategic Industry Alliances:** Maintains formal alliances with TMA BlueTech (the nation's largest maritime technology organization) and major ocean technology firms including SeaTrepid, Seafloor Systems, Ocean Motion, Teledyne, and Scripps Institution of Oceanography¹.

Strategic Outlook

Supported by a \$6M Department of Labor grant and 2023 Congressional funding, MCCCCD is expanding operations across both sites:

- **Oceanside Main Campus:** Integrating dual-enrollment pathways with TCI so academic STEM students can earn technical micro-credentials (CAD, soldering) alongside associate degrees.
- **Carlsbad TCI Campus:** Scaling paid internships to cover 100% of Blue Tech cohort participants and expanding Aquaculture Certificate offerings alongside NOAA, Scripps, and Hubbs-SeaWorld Research Institute.