

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

**Trident Technical College – North Charleston, South Carolina**

The Secretary of Transportation redesignates Trident Technical College (TTC) as a Center of Excellence for Domestic Maritime Workforce Training and Education (CoE) for its ashore technical career tracks, commercial port training partnerships, and youth apprenticeship initiatives. Located in North Charleston, South Carolina, adjacent to the Port of Charleston—the deepest water port in the U.S. Southeast—TTC serves as a primary postsecondary workforce development hub across Charleston, Berkeley, and Dorchester counties.

**Operational Footprint & Assets**

Delivers applied technical degrees, stackable certificates, and industrial contract training tailored to commercial port and vessel operations.

- **Ashore Technical Degrees & Pathways:** Offers three maritime-aligned Associate in Applied Science (A.A.S.) degrees: Supply Chain Management (60 credits), Marine Stewardship (63 credits), and Marine Engineering Technology (82 credits).
- **Applied Career Certificates:** Grants five specialized certificates, including Industrial Mechanics, Machine Tool Technology, Commercial Truck Driving (Class A CDL), and Gas Metal Arc Welding Fundamentals (GMAWF).
- **National Credential Preparation:** Prepares students for industry-recognized certifications, including NC3 Snap-On, American Welding Society (AWS), National Institute for Metalworking Skills (NIMS), and EPA Section 608 Refrigeration.
- **Seamanship & Apprenticeship Articulation:** Partners with the Harry Lundeberg School of Seamanship Engine Department Apprenticeship, allowing students to integrate 12 sea-service credits directly into the Marine Engineering Technology or Marine Stewardship A.A.S. degrees.

**Workforce & Regional Impact**

Provides specialized technical talent to port authorities, regional shipyards, & logistics providers.

- **Port & Shipyard Workforce Training:** Delivers targeted educational contract training for the South Carolina State Ports Authority (Port of Charleston - Machinery Mechanics/Electricians), Detyens Shipyard (130 machinery mechanic trainees since 2009), Stevens Towing Company (Welding/Shipbuilding), Collins Machine Works, and W International (156 welding/shipbuilding trainees).
- **Logistics & Supply Chain Partnerships:** Collaborates with Custom House Brokers, Freight Forwarders, and NVOCCs, including JAS Forwarding, Peter Wittwer North America, and Rogers and Brown.
- **Program Completion & High Placement:** Maintains high graduate placement rates across core technical programs: Industrial Mechanics (100% placement), GMAWF Welding (100% placement), Commercial Truck Driving (96% placement across 195 graduates), and Leadership Development (100% placement).
- **Nationally Recognized Youth Apprenticeships:** Operates an industry-led youth

apprenticeship program with local school districts, allowing high school students to earn dual high school and TTC technical credentials while working in maritime trades.

**Strategic Outlook**

Supported by South Carolina's expanding maritime economy and port infrastructure investments, Trident Technical College continues to expand its skilled industrial trades and supply chain pathways. By pairing high school dual-enrollment pipelines with industry-recognized technical certifications and merchant mariner apprenticeships, TTC maintains a steady supply of qualified technicians, logistics specialists, and mariners supporting the Port of Charleston and the broader Mid-Atlantic maritime sector.