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

Tidewater Community College –
Chesapeake, Portsmouth, Virginia Beach, Norfolk & Suffolk, Virginia

The Secretary of Transportation redesignates Tidewater Community College (TCC) as a Center of Excellence for Domestic Maritime Workforce Training and Education (CoE) for its regional leadership in skilled trades, USCG-approved mariner licensing, and shipyard apprenticeship partnerships across the Hampton Roads defense industrial base. Operating across five primary campus nodes and regional training facilities, TCC serves as the primary technical educational provider supporting Naval Station Norfolk (the world's largest naval base) and The Port of Virginia (the nation's sixth-largest container port complex).

Operational Footprint & Assets
TCC delivers comprehensive technical degree tracks, USCG-approved mariner courses, and dedicated skilled trades facilities disaggregated across five specialized delivery nodes:

- **Chesapeake Node (Marine Electrical & Precision Machining):** Houses a dedicated 15,000 sq. ft. Marine Electrical/Electronic Systems complex, an 8,000 sq. ft. National Institute for Metalworking Skills (NIMS)-aligned precision machining laboratory for manual and CNC operations, and the A.S. Engineering transfer pathway.
- **Portsmouth Node & Skilled Trades Academy (Shipyard Trades & Apprenticeship Hub):** Functions as the academic lead for maritime pathways, housing the centralized TCC Office of Apprenticeships and 40 main-campus welding booths. Operates the 32,000 sq. ft. Skilled Trades Academy equipped with 30 specialized welding booths, 10 marine coatings training modules, 5 pipefitting modules, automated spraying and blasting equipment, a plasma arc welding machine, industrial rigging equipment, a dedicated shipfitting laboratory, an AWS Accredited Test Facility, and two mobile welding laboratories deployed directly to regional shipyards for on-site instruction.
- **Virginia Beach Node (Propulsion Technology & Afloat Licensing Suite):** Functions as an ABYC-accredited Marine League School featuring marine diesel and gasoline diagnostic bays, computer-aided drafting (CAD) marine design laboratories, and TCC's primary USCG afloat licensing suite.
- **Norfolk Node & Maritime Logistics Center:** Serves as the executive administration lead hosting the Management (Maritime Logistics) program and the national distance education hub for the U.S. Naval Community College (USNCC).
- **Suffolk Node & Regional Workforce Development Center (Intermodal Freight Logistics):** Houses specialized Class A Commercial Driver's License (CDL) commercial driver training ranges, preparing academic and workforce trainees with credentials required to support intermodal freight and container transfer operations at Port of Virginia terminals.

Comprehensive Afloat & Ashore Career Credential Framework

- **Afloat Credentials:** USCG Operator of Uninspected Passenger Vessels (OUPV) Six-Pack (TIDECC-340), Master 100 Ton (TIDECC-530), Auxiliary Sail, Basic Firefighting, First Aid/CPR, Personal Safety and Social Responsibilities (PSSR), Personal Survival Techniques (PST), and Maritime Security Awareness/VPDSD endorsements.
- **Ashore & Trade Credentials:** Associate of Applied Science (A.A.S.) degrees in Maritime Technologies and Management (Maritime Logistics); 8 stackable Career Studies Certificates (CSCs); American Welding Society (AWS) structural welding certifications; and American Boat and Yacht Council (ABYC) marine service certifications.

Workforce & Regional Impact
Serves as an essential workforce engine supplying commercial ship repairers, naval defense industrial yards, intermodal freight hubs, and regional commercial fleets:

- **First-in-State Multi-Employer Apprenticeship Sponsor:** Operates as Virginia's first higher education institution registered as a multi-employer group apprenticeship sponsor, delivering structured employer-sponsored tracks in shipfitting, welding, electrical implementation and controls, inside machining, outside machining, blasting, and coating with full wraparound academic and financial support.
- **Defense Shipyard Apprenticeship Pipeline:** Sustains an enrollment of ~350 registered apprentices and maritime students across regional shipyard partners, including ~200 incoming apprentices annually for Norfolk Naval Shipyard (NNSY), awarding over 1,000 maritime degrees and certificates to apprentices between 2018 and 2026.
- **Virginia Ship Repair Association (VSRA) Output:** Delivered accelerated, non-credit Marine Trade Training (MTT) to 2,100+ entry-level and incumbent shipyard workers via the VSRA partnership since 2017, maintaining a post-completion hiring rate exceeding 96%.
- **Military & Port Intermodal Alignment:** Enrolls over 5,000 military-affiliated students annually and serves as the sole degree-granting partner for the U.S. Naval Community College (USNCC) awarding transferable A.A.S. degrees in Logistics to active-duty service members globally, while upskilling 250+ Port of Virginia container logistics workers.
- **Underway Mariner Credentialing Throughput:** Graduated 65 mariners through the USCG-approved OUPV and Master 100 Ton licensing sequence between 2021 and 2025, feeding harbor craft, towing, passenger vessel, and coastal support operations.

Strategic Outlook

Backed by Virginia Vocational Incentive Scholarship Program (VVISP) funding for shipyard workers and deep federal defense partnerships, Tidewater Community College continues to scale its maritime and logistics footprint. By mobilizing its mobile welding fleet to regional shipyards, expanding employer participation through its multi-employer registered apprenticeship sponsorship, and providing scalable online logistics degrees through the USNCC, TCC maintains an indispensable technical pipeline directly reinforcing naval fleet readiness, commercial ship repair capacity, and Mid-Atlantic supply chain sovereignty.