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

Tidewater Community College –
Suffolk, Virginia

The Secretary of Transportation redesignates Tidewater Community College (TCC), incorporating the Suffolk Campus and Regional Workforce Development Center, as a Center of Excellence for Domestic Maritime Workforce Training and Education (CoE). Serving as TCC's dedicated intermodal logistics and commercial driving hub, the Suffolk campus delivers critical workforce solutions that support heavy-freight transport and supply chain resilience for the Port of Virginia and the broader Hampton Roads maritime industrial base.

Operational Footprint & Assets

• **Commercial Truck Driver Training Facility:** Operates a dedicated Class A and Class B Commercial Driver's License (CDL) training range, featuring active tractor-trailer assets and maneuvering tracks tailored for complex highway logistics and port terminal container transfers.
• **Workforce Solutions & Short-Term Training Hub:** Houses specialized administrative and instructional space for TCC Workforce Solutions, enabling rapid, short-term credentialing across the transportation and logistics pathway.
• **Logistics & Supply Chain Alignment:** Curricula directly align with regional intermodal freight requirements, ensuring graduates secure the necessary CDL credentials for immediate deployment in regional transit and drayage operations.

Workforce & Regional Impact

• **Transport Logistics Pipeline:** Produced 75 Truck Driving Career Studies Certificate (CSC) completers and trained 143 CDL non-credit registrants in a single baseline academic year, sustaining a continuous pipeline of logistics professionals.
• **Intermodal Port Integration:** Supplies credentialed heavy-freight transport drivers directly to regional drayage fleets, freight corridors, and container terminals serving the nation's sixth-largest port complex.
• **Barrier Reduction & Funding Support:** Leverages state FastForward funding and Workforce Financial Assistance to significantly reduce out-of-pocket tuition costs for students, accelerating the transition of career advancers and military veterans into high-demand transportation roles.

Strategic Outlook

TCC Suffolk strengthens regional and national supply chain resilience by directly mitigating persistent commercial driver shortages within the maritime logistics sector. By expanding its heavy-freight and intermodal driver training capacity, the campus ensures the continuous, rapid movement of containerized cargo across Mid-Atlantic port operations and national defense logistics networks during periods of peak commercial demand and emergency mobilization.