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

Tidewater Community College –
Virginia Beach, Virginia

The Secretary of Transportation redesignates Tidewater Community College (TCC), incorporating the Virginia Beach Campus node, as a Center of Excellence for Domestic Maritime Workforce Training and Education (CoE). The Virginia Beach Campus serves as TCC's primary center for small craft engine technology, marine diesel diagnostics, USCG merchant mariner credentialing, and advanced engineering design supporting coastal maritime industries and Hampton Roads port operations.

Operational Footprint & Assets

• **ABYC-Approved Engine & Systems Laboratory:** Features specialized instructional bays for marine gasoline inboard/outboard engines, stern drives, and commercial marine diesel diagnostics.
• **USCG-Approved Afloat & STCW Facilities:** Fully authorized to deliver USCG-approved mariner licensing and safety courses, including Operator of Uninspected Passenger Vessels (OUPV), Master 100 Ton Upgrades, Basic Firefighting, and STCW modular safety certifications.
• **Engineering Design Labs:** Equipped with Computer-Aided Drafting (CAD) workstations supporting 2D blueprint analysis and 3D modeling for marine mechanical and structural design.
• **ABYC Marine League School Accreditation:** Holds official American Boat and Yacht Council Marine League School accreditation for Gasoline and Diesel Engine Technology.

Workforce & Regional Impact

• **USCG Mariner Credentialing Performance:** Graduated 65 total commercial mariners through the USCG Operator of Uninspected Passenger Vessels (OUPV) licensing sequence between 2021 and 2025.
• **Transport Logistics & Small Craft Pipeline:** Enrolled 107 Truck Driving and 39 Marine Mechanical students in 2025–2026 while maintaining active ABYC-accredited small craft, diesel, and gasoline engine tracks.
• **Small Craft Industry Placement:** Supplies certified diesel and outboard marine technicians directly to commercial fishing fleets, boatyards, marinas, and coastal marine service companies.
• **Intermodal Port Pipeline:** Supplies credentialed commercial transportation professionals to regional drayage fleets, freight corridors, and container terminals serving the Port of Virginia.
• **Military Separation Transition:** Collaborates through TCC's Center for Military and Veterans Education to transition separating naval and military personnel into commercial transportation and marine engine repair careers.

Strategic Outlook

TCC Virginia Beach strengthens regional supply chain resilience by training marine engine mechanics and licensed commercial mariners critical to port container logistics, commercial fishing fleets, and coastal vessel operations. Its ABYC-accredited laboratories and afloat training facilities provide flexible capacity to support emergency engine repower, small craft maintenance, and surges in intermodal transport during supply chain bottlenecks.