



Workforce
Development Board
Contra Costa County

Community Fact Sheet



Marine Trades Skills Training Program

The Workforce Development Board of Contra Costa County (WDBCCC) received a \$500,000 grant from the California Workforce Development Board's Workforce Accelerator Fund to provide accelerated training that increases opportunities and pathways to highly skilled and well-paid employment in the maritime industry. The project places a particular focus on diversity, equity and inclusion, working with partners rooted in local communities to recruit participants who would not ordinarily have access to these opportunities.

What are the specifics of the program?

A key feature of the project will be to offer short-term focused training that rapidly prepares participants for entry into the marine trades. Maritime jobs typically start at \$50,000 annually, and workers can advance quickly to six-figure salaries. Jobs and careers in this industry include marine technicians, machinists, welders and electricians, as well as station agents, captain assistants and captains.

The first part of the project is the launch of an 8 to 10 week course for 30 students with plans to expand after the first cohort. The curriculum will include both marine maintenance and repair skills, as well as essential (soft) skills such as effective communication, customer relations, and successful work habits. Including this component will enable trainees to bring these skills to the workplace, increasing their likelihood of retention in their jobs.

Participants will receive a stipend during their three months of training, enabling them to support themselves prior to rapid entry into employment.

Why is the program important?

The Bay Area is home to some of the largest ship repair and maintenance facilities on the West Coast. Employers at these facilities report a significant shortage of skilled workers in the marine trades. By establishing an employer-designed marine trade curriculum, participants will learn the relevant skills required to attain one of the many high demand jobs available in the industry.

Who are the community partners for the program?

The project is supported by the Marine Trades Skills Training (MTST) Industry Board comprised of 12 - 15 maritime commercial employers in the region who understand the skills needed to excel in the in this growing industry and are responsible for the development of the training curriculum. The MTST will partner with the Machinists Institute in Seattle, union partners and other industry experts on curriculum development. Additionally, there are multiple alliances with key partners including California State University (CSU) Maritime Academy that will provide orientations regarding careers in the maritime industry, and field trips to program sites in Richmond and Vallejo. A partnership with the Red Oak Victory Ship will give participants the chance use their skills in community service, through restoration work on an historic ship. Class content includes extensive hands-on training with industry instructors, presentations by guest lecturers and employer site visits.

An informational session will be held for those interested in the opportunity on May 22, 2024 from 1pm – 3pm at the San Pablo Community Center. To RSVP, contact Patricia Conley at pconley@ehsd.cccounty.us.

Contact Us:

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