

The National Center for Maritime Excellence
John A C Cartner
May 17, 2018

National Need. The nation needs a National Center for Maritime Excellence which focuses on excellence in theory, practice and development in and of the maritime sector. Such a center will have an emphasis on research, post-baccalaureate training, magisterial and doctoral education, a maritime entrepreneurial incubator, maritime public service outreach and other clearly identified programs in a central location and management with a clear mission and focus on the sector.

Co-Location. The National Center for Maritime Excellence should be co-located at the United States Merchant Marine Academy for efficiency and operational economy but should be separate and apart from the Academy's operations and management to avoid undue interference with the Academy's core mission of educating and training officers for maritime and naval service.

Research. The National Center for Maritime Excellence should use the faculties of the the United States Merchant Marine Academy and the state maritime colleges to form a research pool which can seek funding from commercial and governmental sources to address key problems in the industry. For example, attentive and vigilant bridge watchkeeping is becoming problematic with an increase in naval and commercial collisions. Best practices can be developed from careful data analysis to assist in precluding such incidents. Simulation research using existing and upgraded facilities should be used by groups of faculty assisted by senior students to deal with problems brought to the group such as port planning and design fitting vessels to proposed changes or additions.

Post-baccalaureate and Skilled Training. Post-baccalaureate and skilled continued training in marine engineering and in marine operations in a coordinated way is a national need which should be addressed by the National Center for Maritime Excellence. This goal can be met in conjunction with the various union facilities and state schools. These continuing education courses are also capable of being put online and a library of them should be built for those unable to travel to the Center or locally in a convenient fashion or at sea. The Center can act to coordinate such courses from various sources and locations and establish a common accreditation service in conjunction with the Coast Guard, thus meeting another national need.

Magisterial Education. Magisterial education in shipping is rarely available outside Europe and should be a program of a National Center for Maritime Excellence. A shipping degree is a salable product for the Academy or maritime college graduate worldwide. Such degrees can be offered in conjunction with various British and European and Far Eastern schools depending on where the candidate is working or wishes to work. Developing the use of networked educational technology in the maritime sector is a national need.

Legal Training. The National Center for Maritime Excellence should consider partnering with the IMO/IMLI law school in Malta and offering a maritime law degree accredited by the appropriate private authority. This would permit a public institution too offer such a degree unique in the United States. Currently such degrees are graduate law degrees.

Doctoral Education and Training. Similarly there are few programs in the world offering doctoral education and training in the maritime sector. The National Center for Maritime Excellence can partner

with schools offering doctoral degrees or with Congressional authority offer its own rigorous program of research and dissertation.

The National Maritime University. The National Center for Maritime Excellence should be the home of the National Maritime University as one of its programs. The University would comprise the United States Merchant Marine Academy and the state maritime colleges under a chancellor at the Center. The University can coordinate the programs and specializations of all the schools to better complement its own graduate training and education.

Entrepreneurial Incubator. The National Maritime Center for Excellence in conjunction with the Small Business Administration can sponsor entrepreneurial incubators in the maritime sector which would be unique. Such an incubator can work with research programs to develop new and thoughtful ways of furthering the maritime sector in the nation.

Maritime Outreach. The National Center for Maritime Excellence should continue the relationships already developed by Maritime Administration and the maritime industry. Industrial players of any kind should be free to approach the National Maritime Center for any of its programmatic offerings and should be encouraged to cooperate with such offering and to propose new offerings. .

National Need. There is a national need for a National Center for Maritime Excellence programmatically dealing in coordination with existing resources for training, education, research and outreach. The National Center for Maritime Excellence can coordinate and use many existing resources with greater efficiency and economy than currently is the case. The National Center for Maritime Excellence can and will further a robust and strengthening United States maritime presence in the domestically and globally for invested national capital.