

PRESS RELEASE

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New Mariners graduate from OCC Professional Mariner Program

The semester wrapped up with Fire Fighting drills at the Fire station and a Navigation exercise aboard the 88' Peaceful Spirit outside Newport Harbor. Twenty-three Orange Coast College (OCC) students completed the first year of the OCC Professional Mariner Program taking courses in Boat Handling, Seamanship, Maritime Careers, Yachtkeeping, Vessel Systems, Diesel Engine Maintenance, Navigation, and the four components of Basic Safety Training; First Aid/CPR, Personal Survival, Personal Safety & Social Responsibility and Fire Prevention and Fire Fighting, thus earning their STCW endorsement. "This training was very useful. It could save my life and my crews," commented one student.

The Professional Mariner Program is one of OCC's many career programs enabling the students to earn college credit and a Certificate of Achievement while learning skills & knowledge specific to the maritime industry. "I was really pleased with the content and hands-on practical skills," another student commented. Most of the students have applied for their Merchant Mariners Document and Transportation Worker Identification Credential (TWIC) cards.

When asked about the first year of the program, Instructor Christopher McNally said, "Working with our Advisory Council, we have been able to assist greater than 40% of our students in securing internships or jobs in the local maritime industries. I could not be happier with the results of our first year, we all learned a lot and the students grew tremendously as they worked their way through the program. I look forward to watching their continued success in a fascinating and challenging field." Many of the students secured employment as deckhands with Catalina Express, L.A. Water Taxi, and aboard private and commercial yachts. Several students are working in Cadet/Internship programs with Foss Maritime, Hornblower Cruises and the S.S. Lane Victory.

Maritime training at the OCC School of Sailing and Seamanship continues to expand with Basic Safety Training for the STCW certificate and Radar Observer courses planned to be offered in the Fall. The Captain's Licensing Course for the U.S. Coast Guard Master/Mate 100 Ton license continues to run four times a year.

Further information about the OCC Professional Mariner Program can be found on www.occsailing.com/professional_mariner_program or in the Career Services section of www.orangeoastcollege.edu or by calling (949) 645-9412.