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### KCC Enters a New Phase in Maritime History

BY DR. CLAUDIA SCHRADER

Manhattan Beach was once the home to the U.S. Maritime Service (USMS) Training Station, a voluntary organization that trained individuals to become officers and crewmembers with the U.S. Merchant Marines. After it was dissolved in the 1950's the site was selected as the new home for Kingsborough Community College (KCC). It is not surprising the college would be home to the Maritime Technology program which offers an Associate of Applied Science, as well as professional certification. As we look toward the future, we are excited to enter a new phase in our storied history as an Offshore Wind (OSW) Training Center.

The OSW industry is critical to the emergence and growth of New York City. The sector is poised to employ over 13,000 New Yorkers and generate \$1.3B in average annual local investments. Yet, severe workforce gaps must be addressed to meet the climate goals and capture economic opportunities for workers. This is where KCC stepped up, again. The

College is leading the design of the CUNY Bridges to Offshore Wind, a consortium that includes LaGuardia Community College and New York City College of Technology, which will provide an interactive instructional seminar for people interested in learning about the region's OSW industry. Building on each college's existing capacities, Bridges to OSW will focus on maritime, electrical, construction & manufacturing, assembly, and supply chain subsectors.

In addition, KCC is slated to offer the Deckhand/Crew Transfer Vessel (CTV) training program with Global Wind Organization Basic Safety training starting in the Fall of 2023. This 112-hour Deckhand / CTV Training for Offshore Wind will prepare participants for an entry-level deckhand position. The participants who enroll and complete the training will learn to launch, dock, repair, and maintain ships; be prepared in maritime safety procedures and basic safety training that will enable them to work safely in the offshore wind industry. Training



The Kingsborough Community College maritime program has been training mariners to run vessels in New York Harbor for over 35 years. Now, KCC is leading the design of the CUNY Bridges to Offshore Wind, a consortium that includes LaGuardia Community College and New York City College of Technology.

includes First Aid with CPR Certification, CTV simulator training, and the Global Wind Organization safety training.

The onsite training in our state-of-the-art simulator lab for Crew Transfer Vessel trainees will simulate the foundation of an offshore wind turbine. It is used to teach students safe transfer procedures between a vessel and an offshore wind turbine. The software for CTV will be used to train workers to maneuver up to a turbine's monopile and transfer personnel from the boat to the tower. During the construction, maintenance, and operation of offshore wind farms, CTV personnel will be in high demand as these vessels transport wind farm technicians, tools, equipment, and other personnel to sites daily. In addition to the simulator lab, students will have the opportunity to work hands-on in our RV CUNY I vessel, which is the only hybrid-powered catamaran training vessel in the U.S. While it is a state-of-the-art platform for green sailing and research, upgrades that are currently underway will enhance and retrofit it for our CTV training.

According to Captain John Nappo, program director of Mari-

time Technology at KCC, the wind turbines will be 18 to 30 miles offshore. "The only way to get there to build and service them is through some specialized craft," he said. "The scope is amazing. Eight hundred feet high, and they will move around a lot."

KCC has partnered with Seafarers International Union, the largest North American union representing merchant mariners, to prepare students for successful careers by providing credentials and employment opportunities.

In partnership with potential employers, KCC will continue to lead the academic and career pathways for New Yorkers interested in various fields of the maritime industry.

*Dr. Claudia Schrader is the president of Kingsborough Community College. KCC is currently offering a pre-apprentice program in conjunction with Seafarers International Union as well as a credit pathway for credentialing students for our current Maritime Tech students.*

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