



For immediate release:

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**LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MURRAY, MASS TECH COLLABORATIVE  
ANNOUNCE \$100,000 TO SUPPORT EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE  
DEVELOPMENT FOR MARINE AND ENVIRONMENTAL INDUSTRIES**

Scituate- January 19, 2012- Lieutenant Governor Timothy Murray today joined state and local officials at the Scituate Maritime Center to announce a \$100,000 grant award from the Massachusetts Technology Collaborative to strengthen marine and environmental education and workforce development in the Commonwealth. The grant was awarded to the Marine & Environmental Education Alliance to assess the demand for educational programs and other activities that support the development of a qualified workforce for the state's marine and environmental industries.

“Our Administration is committed to making investments in education, innovation and infrastructure that enhance our ability to compete in the global economy,” said Lieutenant Governor Murray, who chairs both the Governor’s STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) Advisory Council and the Seaport Advisory Council. “Scituate and other communities on the South Shore have a rich history, with great potential for economic development opportunities. By strengthening our marine and environmental industries, we’re supporting future growth and job creation for this region and the Commonwealth.”

“Education and workforce development are key components of the Patrick-Murray Administration’s strategy to fuel job creation and spur economic growth across the Commonwealth,” said Housing and Economic Development Secretary Greg Bialecki “By leveraging existing resources and making strategic investments, we’re positioning the Commonwealth for long-term economic success.”

The award was made through the Massachusetts Technology Collaborative’s John Adams Innovation Institute, the economic development arm of MTC focused on enhancing conditions for innovation and industry cluster growth in the Commonwealth. The award supports two objectives: 1) Assess the feasibility of developing education and training programs for environmental and marine technicians, directed by a steering committee of members of the Marine & Environmental Education Alliance, Massasoit Community College, and sector companies. 2) Support outreach and permitting for the Ocean Campus Center, a proposed marine and environmental education facility in Scituate.

“Attracting and enhancing mid-skills level talent is becoming a critical element of the Commonwealth’s strategy to bring the benefits of our innovation economy to every region of the Commonwealth,” said Pamela Goldberg, CEO of the Massachusetts Technology Collaborative. “A key element of this project is the direct engagement of marine and environmental services companies, in partnership with government and academia, to define the needs and assess the feasibility of this exciting approach.”

The Marine & Environmental Educational Alliance (MEEA), a non-profit organization formed by business and academic leaders in Scituate, is developing the Ocean Campus Center for marine and environmental education and training. The center will include programs in marine electronics, boat building and repair, environmental technologies and instrumentation, homeland security technologies, emergency response and alternative energy systems. The center will provide training for marine and environmental technical specialists at the Certificate and Associate Degree levels.

The Urban Harbors Institute of UMass Boston will conduct the feasibility study to explore the technical and workforce needs of the marine industry, including availability of jobs and the industry’s impact on economic development across the state. The study will be used by Massasoit Community College and other educational institutions to assess the demand for expanded certificate and degree programs for marine and environmental technical specialists.

"We at Massasoit Community College anticipate the results of the Urban Harbor Institute feasibility study to guide us as we tailor our marine and environmental technology programs to workforce preparedness and job creation," said Dr. Charles Wall, President, Massasoit Community College. "We believe our collective efforts will lead to measurable economic development in the South Shore."

“MEEA is excited to work with MTC, Massasoit Community College and the business community to document the feasibility and possible impacts of a higher education facility dedicated to developing technical skills in the marine and environmental sectors,” said Jeffrey Rosen, president of the Marine and Environmental Education Alliance. “The demand for these skills has already been established. This study will document and further refine the needs and the jobs that will be available to our graduates.”

From 2006 to 2016, the demand for marine and environmental technical specialists is expected to produce a total of 3,540 new and replacement jobs, according to the state Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development.

“The shortage of skilled labor has long been an impediment to growth in the marine trades. Our biggest problem for years has been finding enough technicians to maintain and repair our boats and marine engines. It remains an acute problem during recessionary times when the public is not buying new product and must maintain and repair what they have,” said Ed Lofgren, a member of the Board of Directors for the Massachusetts Marine Trades Association and owner of 3A Marine Service, Inc. “The Ocean Campus

will greatly benefit the Massachusetts Marine Trades and the Massachusetts economy with the education and training of skilled technicians, at present in short supply, in the marine and environmental fields.”

“I am encouraged by the administration’s support of the educational and workforce development opportunities the Scituate Maritime Center represents. It is critical to support educational facilities such as this which provide technical training and bring a new level of skill to support the region’s evolving maritime industry,” said Senator Robert Hedlund.

“This is a critical first step of introducing a coastal community college to our region,” said Representative Jim Cantwell. “I am excited to see progress for this Ocean Campus Center, which will help to address identified workplace and training needs in competitive trades like marine engine repair and environmental sciences. I want to thank the Patrick/Murray Administration for its support of this unique vision developed by Scituate’s Marine and Environmental Educational Alliance, and look forward to working with business and community leaders to make the Ocean Campus Center a reality.”

“Congratulations to the Marine and Environmental Education Alliance (MEAA), Massasoit Community College officials and the Town of Scituate, for your vision, leadership and hard work, leading to the award of this \$100,000 grant from the Massachusetts Technology Collaborative. Your recognition of the demand for educational training programs which will prepare a workforce to service the state’s marine and environmental industries will, I am sure, lead to the eventual development of the Ocean Campus Center in Scituate. As always, thank you as well to Governor Patrick and Lt. Gov. Tim Murray for their continued commitment and support of this exciting project which will strengthen economic and job development across the South Shore,” said Representative Garrett Bradley.

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