



U.S. Department of
Transportation
Maritime Administration

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Centers of Excellence for Domestic Maritime Workforce Training and Education (CoE):

Cape Fear Community College

Located in southeastern North Carolina on the banks of the Cape Fear River, Cape Fear Community College (CFCC) has concentrated all its Marine Technology assets next to the navigable channel, and very close to the Atlantic Ocean.

The Marine Technology (MARTECH) program at CFCC has been offering hands-on, vocational training for over 56 years and is, as a local employer remarked, “a unique and important pillar of the marine science and applied technology sector in North Carolina.” A staple of CFCC’s hands-on training is the use of both a large research vessel and a collection of small boats to provide students with hands-on training. The college currently owns and operates a 134-ft research vessel, the CAPE HATTERAS, and a 53-ft research vessel, the MARTECH in addition to 6 small boats 30-ft and less. CFCC’s ships have carried testing equipment and conducted experiments on behalf of researchers at the University of North Carolina at Wilmington and led high school cohorts on scientific sampling field trips on the Cape Fear River.

The Marine Technology program, by its general nature, includes a host of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) courses preparing students for careers in environmental impact and compliance; dredging and marine engineering; hydrographic surveying; marine fisheries, and oceanographic research support. CFCC has sent thousands of graduates into a host of maritime industries that are critical to the health of the environment, navigable waterways, and important additions to the local and national economies. Students graduate from CFCC’s two-year program with an Associate in Applied Science degree and has a 94 percent placement rate upon graduation. Complementing North Carolina’s extensive history of boat building, CFCC also offers two, one-year, diploma programs in both Wooden Boat Building and Boat Manufacture and Service.

CFCC seeks to enhance the regional economy by providing training and educational programs that support a skilled workforce and are responsive to the needs of local employers; CFCC seeks to enhance its immediate community by committing to celebrate and value diversity and inclusiveness, and to creating an environment responsive to the diverse needs of all the constituencies the College serves.

The Secretary of Transportation designates Cape Fear Community College as a 2021 CoE in recognition of its high quality and lasting commitment toward maritime workforce development.