



Dear MMA Community,

As noted in numerous studies and reports, including US Surgeon General's Reports in 2006, 2010 and 2014, tobacco use and smoking causes disease and premature death in children and adults who smoke. Additionally, secondhand smoke exposure causes death and disease in children and adults who do not smoke. To protect the health and safety of Maine Maritime Academy faculty, staff, students and visitors on campus, and create a healthier and cleaner campus environment, the Academy is launching an initiative to be a tobacco-free campus by fall 2017.

The current academic year will be a planning year for education and policy development. Year 2, 2016-2017, will be a year of voluntary compliance with the new policy – as members of the community who currently use tobacco receive support as they transition to a tobacco-free campus, and to allow time to learn about questions and circumstances not anticipated in the year of planning. Year 3, 2017-2018, will be the first year as an official tobacco-free campus. MMA will provide assistance to members of the Academy community who wish to overcome tobacco addictions.

There are unique challenges on the MMA campus with this initiative because of the unique environment of the TSSOM as well as the impact this initiative could have on our community of Castine. We anticipate you will have many questions, ideas and suggestions. We have engaged with both the director of the UMaine campaign and the New England Tobacco Free College Campus Initiative to gain advice on best practices. The three-year implementation is one of those best practice suggestions. Another is to form a Tobacco-Free Campus Task Force. We will be soliciting nominations (including self-nominations) of individuals (both users and non-users of tobacco) to represent the many campus constituencies who will be involved in a successful implementation of the initiative. Please contact Deidra Davis, Dean of Student Services, at deidra.davis@mma.edu if you would like to nominate an individual to serve on the task force.

Regards,
Dr. William J. Brennan
President