

# Maritime Education Summit 2014

Maine Maritime Academy

17-19 October 2014

## Session Summary

**Topic/Title:** FROM MARITIME EDUCATION TO TRANSPORTATION EDUCATION: CHANGING THE TEACHING PARADIGM – An Invitation for Discussion

**Description:** Maritime education and training at the Academies focuses on preparing students to become merchant marine officers, to gain STCW competency and pass the USCG License examinations, but often provides broader studies on the marine transportation system, the supply chain, intermodal transportation, and logistics. However, the recent economic downturn and resultant era of collegiate funding constraints are forcing reductions in student credit loads at the same time new regulatory requirements drive the need for additional training and certification. These concerns come at a time when maritime stakeholders are trying to find the path to improve and grow the industry to ensure the availability and viability of a U.S. merchant marine in the future. The question then for maritime educational institutions is how to provide more comprehensive education that can support the goals of an integrated national transportation strategy, while constraining spending to make up for lost funding.

Our normal academy education is focused on the maritime domain. The proposed session invites discussion – Must there not be a paradigm shift to provide a new norm in support of an efficient, integrated and reliable national and non-discriminatory strategy that fosters competition across all modes of the transportation system? If so, thought processes have to change. Is it not time for the maritime academies to take a leadership role in addressing this initiative? The opportunity and the need exist now to change the teaching paradigm from maritime education to transportation education. If we want the industry to survive and grow, it is essential to facilitate and participate in this development. It is essential to educate the transportation leaders of tomorrow.

**Session Type:** PowerPoint-based presentation (no paper)

**Duration:** 25 minutes total (presentation 15 minutes, discussion 10 minutes)

**Presenter:** CAPT George E. Edenfield, USMS

**Brief Bio:** George E. Edenfield is a Professor of Marine Transportation at the USMMA. CAPT Edenfield holds a USCG license as MASTER OF OCEAN STEAM and MOTOR VESSELS OF ANY GROSS TONS. He has also served in leadership of the Department of Marine Transportation, USMMA. Concurrently with his responsibilities at the Academy, CAPT Edenfield serves as Chief Mate / Relief Master in newbuilding sea trials for General Dynamics NASSCO, San Diego, California. He is a member of MERPAC and has served on the U.S. delegation to IMO in London.

**Contact:** Department of Marine Transportation  
U.S. Merchant Marine Academy  
300 Steamboat Road  
Kings Point, NY 11024-1699  
Phone: (516) 726-5874  
Email: [edenfieldg@usmma.edu](mailto:edenfieldg@usmma.edu)