



PRESS RELEASE

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MITAGS “WORKBOAT MATE” INAUGURAL GRADUATION CLASS ANNOUNCED

Glen Paine, Executive Director, has announced that the Maritime Institute of Technology and Graduate Studies (MITAGS) will honor the graduates of its 500/1600 GRT Mate Training “Workboat Mate” Program inaugural class at graduation ceremonies on May 15th, 2009.

Mr. James Caponiti, the Maritime Administrations interim administrator will be the keynote speaker for this event.

The graduates are completing an intensive two-year vocational training program that includes twenty (20) separate vocational license preparation courses, reinforced with one year of actual sea-service on board participating company vessels. This program is genuinely transforming the tugboat and workboat industries by providing highly trained, qualified, and motivated Mates for the critically short-handed maritime industry.

Already a groundbreaking program in the Pacific Northwest region, the Workboat Mate Program has been offered twice a year at the Institute’s Linthicum Heights, Maryland campus since April 2007. Centrally located near Baltimore and Washington, MITAGS is world renowned for its training, simulation, and conference/meeting facility in partnership with the Pacific Maritime Institute (PMI) in Seattle Washington.

To date, the Workboat Mate Program has been heartily supported by the maritime industry. “*Prospective mariners now have a clear, fast track approach to a career at sea and companies have a viable resource for recruitment*” said Russ Johnson, Port Captain for Dunlap Towing.

The MITAGS 500/1600 GRT Mate Training Program is approved by the U.S. Coast Guard, which allows a “Fast Track to Mate” in just two years. It has also been approved by the Veterans Administration through the Maryland Higher Education Commission, so eligible veterans can use their GI Bill educational benefits to offset any financial burden associated with the program.

For more information about the Workboat Academy, please visit <http://www.WorkboatAcademy.com>