

President Charles Wall deliveres keynote address at Marine Trade Professional Development Conference.

January 23, 2013

Brockton, MA - President Wall delivered the keynote address at the Marine Retailers of the Americas (MRAA), the Massachusetts Marine Trade Association (MMTA), and the Massachusetts Marine Educational Trust (MMTET) Professional Development Conference on January 23, 2013, held at the Massasoit Conference Center in Brockton. The event drew participants from all over New England who are in the marine trades business.

In his speech, Dr. Wall gave a history of the College's relationship with the Massachusetts Marine Trades Association and the marine and environmental industry. He highlighted the College's Marine Technician Certificate program which began in 2004 and was developed in collaboration with the MMTA. He spoke of the 2007 collaborative grant they received to set up the Jobs in Boating program. The goal of the program focused on introducing youth, job seekers, and incumbent workers into career ladders in the recreational marine trades in Massachusetts. He also spoke of the Ocean Campus Center and the College's long standing collaboration with the Marine and Environmental Education Alliance (MEEA), outlining key findings and recommendations of a recently completed Massachusetts Technology Collaborative grant funded Feasibility Study which was conducted by Urban Harbors Institute of UMass Boston.

In his closing, he reminded the group, "The best is yet to come. We have collaborated with you and others in the industry and we plan to continue these conversations as part of our hard work toward becoming a permanent hub of professional development and higher education for your sector." He also stated, "We will work with you, our industry leaders and local high schools to develop curricula. We will collaborate with other higher education institutions to be able to offer pathways to the baccalaureate degree and beyond. And we will provide degree and certificate programs as well as seminars and speaker series and intensive trainings from experts from throughout the industry."

