

Marine Technology Funding Fact Sheet

Why the Marine Technology program deserves full funding.

- The Marine Technology program is one of a kind and a true leader in supplying a skilled work force for the marine industry. Our hands-on, workforce training is what leads employers to hire our graduates.
- Our at sea training is what makes us unique; this hands-on training is the core of our program. Remove the shipboard training (R/V DAN MOORE and our fleet of small boats) component and you destroy the employability of our graduates.
- We have been specializing in STEM Education (Science, Technical, Engineering, Math) for years. The federal government and other state governments are prioritizing this type of education not eliminating it. These disciplines lead to jobs, and long term economic growth.
- The Marine Technology program at Cape Fear Community College is nationally recognized by the National Science Foundation and the Marine Advanced Technology Education Center “for working to improve marine technical education in the U.S. and to meet the workplace needs of America’s marine-related workforce and employers”.
- **Simply put: If you don’t spend the money to train and expose students to the conditions, equipment and challenges they will face in industry, they will not be hired.**

Cutting our funding is not saving money, but wasting it!

- We have 148 students in the program, many of whom will not have the opportunity to complete their degree. Over \$585,000 in federal aid, grants, scholarships and loans have been allocated to Marine Technology students. In addition, tens of thousands of dollars in personal savings and earnings have been spent by North Carolina families in the pursuit of a Marine Technology degree. What will these students and their families do if the program is eliminated?
- The Marine Technology program has been in existence for over 45 years and we continue to be a proven source for providing highly skilled Marine Technicians to the Marine Industry. The recent oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico has seen several of our graduates beginning their career in the Gulf while **bringing their paychecks back to North Carolina.**
- We are the only institution in the state that has in place the infrastructure to provide this highly specialized type of training. We have invested millions of dollars in vessels, equipment and instrumentation for our students to train on and with. Our faculty and staff has unparalleled expertise and experience.

We are not a program withering, but experiencing unprecedented GROWTH!

- The Marine Technology program is at enrollment levels not seen in the last 17 years. We presently have 148 students enrolled in the program. Each training cruise goes out with its full complement of students and all of our classes are at capacity.

Now is not the time to cut funding for work force training.

- Community colleges and vocational programs in particular are the driving force in retooling the citizenry for employment.
- Unlike several of the other NC Community College Specialized Centers and Programs slated for elimination by the Governor, we graduate students who get jobs. Employers visit our campus annually to recruit graduates. We have not experienced any downturn in the demand for our graduates even during the last several years of a less than robust economy.
- With our local and state unemployment still at record levels, programs like Marine Technology should receive strong legislative funding and support, not elimination.