



Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

Higher Education Coordinating Commission
Office of Community Colleges & Workforce Development,
Office of Workforce Investments
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Governor Brown,

On March 8th, 2019 the Workforce and Talent Development Board (WTDB) heard an informative and engaging presentation on the Maritime Sector from leaders on the Maritime Taskforce.

The presentation emphasized that the maritime sector is multifaceted, large and in need of skilled workers. We also learned that our current education and training infrastructure is inadequate to meet the talent needs of the maritime industry and its employers. Our current system is also unable to keep up with the pace of replacement of the aging/retiring maritime workforce.

There were a number of exciting developments that occurred at the March meeting. The WTDB voted in favor of recognizing the maritime sector as key sector of the workforce investment system in Oregon. The board accepted Oregon's Maritime Workforce Sector Report including the "description of the scope and extent of the maritime sector and the maritime sector workforce in Oregon. (SB 867)". The board also adopted the definition of Oregon's maritime sector as provided by the taskforce and approved modification of the existing Unified Plan for a Statewide Workforce Investment System (ORS 660.324) to include a new sector of maritime, as defined in the previously mentioned Oregon's Maritime Workforce Sector Report.

This letter serves as formal, WTDB endorsement of the Maritime Sector and its workforce in Oregon. The WTDB strongly supports efforts to:

1. Recruit and train Oregon's future maritime workforce for these skilled, living-wage jobs.
2. Meet the workforce needs of maritime sector employers.
3. Partner on talent development with other sectors which rely upon maritime industries.
4. Encourage and recommend funding resources be appropriated and leveraged to meet the needs of maritime sector workers and employers.

Kind regards,

Ken Madden, Chair
Workforce and Talent Development Board