Colleagues,

As we enter the season of giving thanks, I want to extend my personal thanks to our entire campus community. Good things happen at Cal Maritime - routinely. They are usually the result of consistent, dedicated, intentional and often unseen efforts by faculty and staff --- in classrooms, on athletic fields, in student clubs, community service, committee work, residence halls, shipboard watches, facilities repairs, counseling, advising and student care. One need not look too far to see the great effects and outcomes that are created by many small acts of service. You strive constantly to create a welcoming, inclusive environment, and your individual and collective work to make it that way delivers concrete results. As we approach the fall recess, I encourage you to reflect on the many blessings we have as a campus community - friendships, accomplishments, impacts. The harvest of your labors is great opportunity for the next generation of Californians - and for that I am ever grateful.

**What Have I Been Up To?**

As many of you may already know, Cal Maritime is a member institution of the International Association of Maritime Universities (IAMU), an organization that brings together leading maritime universities around the world to explore, develop, communicate, and share best practices for the education of future global maritime professionals. This month, IAMU convened the 19th Annual General Assembly in Barcelona, Spain, and as chair of IAMU’s international executive board, I had the privilege of attending this assembly. I was accompanied by Associate Provost, Graham Benton, and together we engaged in creating and supporting academic initiatives within IAMU and reaffirming our commitment to faculty scholarship opportunities through the Journal of Maritime Affairs. This publication from the United Nations-sponsored World Maritime University, provides unique opportunities for IAMU-affiliated faculty and students to publish scholarship from a variety of maritime-oriented academic disciplines.

**What’s Been Going On Around Campus?**

Spirit Week, Festival, & Day on the Bay
We begin each October with Spirit Week, which includes our annual Festival and Day on the Bay. Once again, we enjoyed terrific, dedicated effort by our organizers for each event and we had MANY happy attendees.
Trustee Carney Visit
One of the greatest benefits of serving as your president is hearing from visitors just beginning to learn about us, “I love your students!” Those very words came from newly-appointed CSU Trustee, Jane Carney, who was on campus last week as part of her year-long onboarding process. Trustee Carney spent over eight hours on campus meeting faculty, students and staff at Cal Maritime; she left with a deep appreciation of the complexities of our academy and the commitment of our campus community to excellence in all we do.

Career Fair
It’s no wonder, then, our graduates are highly-sought after by industry partners --- and continue to be the primary drivers of our high career placement rates. And often times, those future careers are secured at our Career Fair, Cal Maritime’s annual event that provides an opportunity to showcase the work of our university by highlighting our soon-to-be grads.

We had an excellent turnout this year, as well: 62 companies participated (6 were new to Cal Maritime); 510 students attended; and 64 official interviews were scheduled.

Sustainability Week
With faculty, staff, and students committed to sustainability principles, Cal Maritime is moving quickly down the path to ensure a better, healthier life for humanity through the introduction of better habits, practices, policies, and technologies that reduce the harmful impacts on our environment.

Arbor Day ceremony caps years of work that will now result in our university being designated as a “Tree Campus USA” by the National Arbor Day Foundation. Universities and colleges with this distinction receive it because of the education, training, and partnerships in campus tree management by faculty, staff, and students --- I applaud our campus community for the substantial planning and work necessary to achieve this national distinction.

Preview Day
We had another successful Preview Day last weekend, with nearly 800 attendees --- bringing prospective students and their families on campus to explore our campus and the programs we offer. New this year was the inclusion of our Oceanography major, which drew its own kind of buzz and excitement, in anticipation of a Fall 2020 program start. Well done to our campus staff, faculty and especially our cadets, all of whom provided an authentic representation of Cal Maritime to our guests, which is vital to sustaining and improving our campus climate.

PROGRESS/UPDATES

Dining Center /Chartwells Action Plan
Vice President Franz Lozano has already addressed most of the issues associated with Dining Services provided through our contract with Chartwells. I am asking for your assistance; please help us to develop the practice of "radical candor" with our vendors through direct contact by everyone
in our campus community. Taking problems directly to those responsible for finding solutions is the
best way to fix problems --- in an office, on a ship, on a team, or on a campus. Modeling the way on
this practice is an important, supportive step toward enhancing our leadership program.

ELDP Program Assessment
Speaking of leadership programming, in late August, a third-party consulting team from Skyline,
Inc., conducted the first of several visits to assess the effectiveness of the current Edwards
Leadership Development Program. The team interviewed and surveyed faculty, staff and students to
compile data and perspectives on the program intent, design, execution and results. We expect a
preliminary report later this fall, along with a follow-on visit by the Skyline consultants.
Commandant David Taliaferro will review and analyze the assessment with his team, share the
results of the assessment broadly, and work with the entire campus community to address the
findings and to improve program outcomes.

NEW PEOPLE & NEW TALENT

Inherent in the work that we do is the fundamental principle that, as a university, we are a people
institution --- and I am routinely encouraged that we go the extra mile to hire bright, talented, and
hard-working individuals to help us achieve our mission. Here are a few new faces since the start of
the school year.

- Audun Aaberg, Associate Vice President of Facilities,
- Samuel De Guzman, Laborer: Housing Operations
- Michael Lawson, Laborer: Housing Operations
- Darrell Miller, Maintenance Mechanic
- Danielle Pelczarksi, Deputy Commandant
- Linda Solow Bouwer, Senior Director of Development
- Malik Sooch, Major Gifts Officer
- Romulo Subaba, Chief Engineer

TELL ME SOMETHING GOOD!

Mike Tressel, coach of our men's crew team, led our rowers to 5th place out of 40 powerhouse
college teams (e.g., Georgia Tech, UCLA, Notre Dame, Clemson) competing in the Head of the
Charles race in Boston. Only the top 5 places get medals --- and this "best-ever" performance by our
crew team is a testament to great talent, effort and coaching!

Thomas A. Cropper
President