



CAL MARITIME

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CAL MARITIME HOSTS FIRST-EVER CONFERENCE ON *TEACHING & LEARNING IN THE MARITIME ENVIRONMENT* – MARCH 28-30

(Vallejo, CA – March 6, 2007)...Over 100 educators and professionals involved in maritime trade and transportation-related education will gather at The California Maritime Academy in Vallejo, CA, March 28-30th for the first-ever conference on *Teaching and Learning in the Maritime Environment*. Keynote speaker for the event will be John Ryan, Chancellor of the State University of New York and former U.S. Naval Academy Superintendent. To date, more than 100 people have pre-registered for the conference, including attendees from as far away as Turkey and the Ukraine.

“The nation’s maritime academies have a unique educational format and challenge,” explains Dr. Don Zingale, Cal Maritime’s Vice President for Academic Affairs, and the initiator of the new conference. “We place a heavy emphasis on experiential education in often extreme conditions. In addition, significant numbers of our faculty come from careers in the maritime industry and not the traditional academic track of pedagogy, and other scholarly work. With that background, what elements of our teaching and learning process do we have to offer traditional education and which of their best practices can we apply to improve our own methodologies and outcomes? The *Teaching and Learning* symposium is designed to bring together a wide-ranging group of practitioners and academicians to explore the special challenges and benefits of this specialized field. Some four-dozen papers and other presentations are scheduled during the three-day period.”

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The conference will commence with optional Wednesday workshops, followed by an opening Plenary session, a reception and a series of informal dinners. Thursday's program includes a series of concurrent morning and afternoon sessions, delivered by conference participants who responded to a professional call for papers in academic journals last fall. Chancellor Ryan, a retired Navy Vice Admiral, will deliver his keynote address on the challenges facing higher education at a noon-time luncheon. The day will conclude with a reception and a dinner for all conference participants aboard the Academy's training ship *Golden Bear*.

Friday's program begins with a morning Plenary round table at which Academy President William Eisenhardt joins his counterparts from Maine and Texas for a lively discussion on the future of maritime academies. The conference concludes with a final series of concurrent presentation sessions, followed by a farewell luncheon.

"We see the *Teaching and Learning Conference* as a wonderful forum for exchange of the best in theory-to-practice," Dr. Zingale concluded. "It will also be a stellar opportunity for networking among and between a diverse group of people working in numerous segments of maritime-related education."

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