



CAL MARITIME
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

Message from the President
November 28, 2022

Dear Campus Community:

Welcome back to campus as we enter the home stretch of the fall semester. I write today to share news of another home stretch in my tenure as president. Over the past summer, I conferred with my family and came to the decision that this academic year would serve as my last year as president of our nation's most diverse maritime academy. Since early fall, I have consulted with Chancellor Koester to determine the appropriate time for the transition to a new campus leader, and she has accepted my retirement date effective August 1, 2023. We both agreed that there would be two overriding goals: ensuring that COVID pandemic-related delays in cadet training were resolved this summer and that the Training Ship *GOLDEN BEAR* entered its impending shipyard period on time.

As many of you know, I came to love this institution first as the parent of a cadet. The palpable transformation of my son is what drew me to this amazing academy. I have been surrounded by dedicated faculty, staff, and campus leaders throughout the last ten years. They have all walked with me through a period of extensive change wrought by candid institutional self-reflection. There have been many highs: the creation of a campus master plan, a new oceanography major, federal funding for a new purpose-built training ship and state funding for a pier upgrade, new classrooms, a new faculty research organization, the Mayo Hall renovation, and beautification and wayfinding improvements throughout campus. There have also been lows: a major campus fire, the COVID pandemic, and social strife throughout our nation and on our campus. I also suffered the heavy personal loss of my wife Heather.

Throughout these highs and lows, you have informed, challenged, and supported me as your president. Together, we have instituted lasting changes to our academy to make it stronger, more inclusive, more diverse, more welcoming, more effective, and more successful. A new faculty senate structure, new campus auxiliary structures, reformed gender-neutral uniform and grooming standards, initiatives and efforts on Title IX and cadet mental health, a new campus inclusion center, a new cadet leadership group (The Compass), and campus safety enhancements all illustrate the power of your committed teamwork.

I will count on that amazing teamwork in the months ahead as we continue the work of positive, powerful, and lasting stewardship of our beloved academy. We are just six short years away from our Cal Maritime Centennial, which will mark a special moment in time to reflect on a century of effort. Our efforts will indeed be part of that history - yet we still have work to do. I look forward to adding my energy to yours as we take on that work next semester.

I am grateful that you have been my colleagues and friends throughout this journey as president and wish you the warmest of holiday wishes as the semester approaches its conclusion.

In service, TC



Thomas A. Cropper
President
California State University Maritime Academy