

In January 2021, as part of the Navy League's mission to support the U.S.-Flag Merchant Marine, the New York Council's Education & Advocacy Committee initiated discussion with Kingsborough Community College (KCC) to identify how the Council could support the KCC Maritime Technology Program and its Associates Degree candidate students.

The KCC Maritime Technology Program is a US Coast Guard-approved program that provides both "hands-on" experience in labs or on boats, and classroom training for careers at sea and ashore. Upon completion, students earn an Associates in Applied Science Degree and 225 sea-time days applicable toward a U.S. Merchant Marine Officers license.

During these discussions, the KCC Maritime Technology faculty identified that a common dilemma amongst their students are the financial roadblocks that often prevent them from advancing to the next level of education and training in preparation for their maritime career.

Thus, in March 2021, the New York Council finalized an agreement with the Kingsborough Community College Foundation to establish *The New York Council Navy League Graduation Award in Maritime Technology*.

The New York Council made an initial \$5,000 gift to fund awards of \$2,500 for two graduating Maritime Technology Associates Degree students recommended by the KCC Maritime Technology faculty and selected by KCC's institution-wide Awards Committee.

During the KCC Awards Night Ceremony on June 16, 2021, Shuzhan Rong and Ravin Tamaldeo received the Council's 2021 Graduation Awards in recognition of their performance, character and work ethic, and continued support of the education and career progress of their shipmates. We offer our congratulations and best wishes to Rong and Tamaldeo, who will both be attending SUNY Maritime College in the fall.



On May 19, 2021, the U.S. Department of Transportation's Maritime Administration announced the designation of 27 Centers of Excellence for Domestic Maritime Workforce Training and Education, recognizing community colleges and training institutions that prepare students for careers in our nation's maritime industry. Kingsborough Community College was the only institution named as a Center of Excellence in our tri-state area.

The Council's support of KCC is particularly appropriate and important because the KCC campus on the eastern end of Coney Island was the site of the U.S. Maritime Service Training Station at Sheepshead Bay that operated

from 1942 to 1954. The Station was the largest Training Station operated by the Maritime Service and could accommodate 10,000 students at a time. By the time of its closing, more than 125,000 seamen had studied there.



The New York Council Navy League appreciates the unique opportunity to support higher education, professional development and personal commitment to long-term careers in the maritime industry that Kingsborough Community College offers.