



# MIACC

## *At the Helm*



### Member News



◆ Dredging began the week of March 12th. Hamilton Harbor has contracted with a marine contractor to improve the depths of the channel leading into the Hamilton Harbor basin and Fuel Dock. The channel has slowly been filling in with sand and silt since it was originally dredged in 2007. This past September Hurricane Irma roared through bringing high winds, heavy rain, tidal surge and coastal erosion expediting the need for dredging. If all goes well and weather permitting phase one should take approximately thirty days and will eliminate the most significant shoaling between channel markers Green #1 and Red #2. Please use extreme caution when navigating the channel while men are at work and keep all wakes to a minimum around the dredge equipment. The goal of the project is to provide a safe well maintained access for all of our members and their guests. Dredging is scheduled Monday-Fridays, no weekends or holidays.

*Channel Dredging Leading into Hamilton Harbor Basin, Fuel Dock and Bayview Park: Well Underway - What Side of the Barge Do I Pass?*

*When Navigating In and Out of the Marina, Always Stay In the Channel Between the Red and Green Markers. Barge Moves Hourly, Pass to the Left or the Right with Caution, Keeping Between the Red & Green Markers.*

#### ◆ PURE FLORIDA

The Kudu 2 is at City Dock and available for charters.

Now offering special charters to lay loved ones to rest on the sea with our Scattering of Ashes. We have various boats available for these, Please contact Robin Rosario for assistance. 239-450-4871.

We are also available to teachers or parks that have "Summer Camps" to take kids out.



#### ◆ Pelican Isle Yacht Club Celebrates Annual Fleet Review

On Saturday, February 10th, over 130 Members of Pelican Isle Yacht Club and their guests gathered for the annual Fleet Review and Blessing of the Fleet Ceremony. This is a special Yacht Club tradition, during which the Club's fleet is reviewed by the Commodore, Flag Officers and visiting dignitaries, either from the club grounds or from a vessel anchored or moored nearby. Commodore Rick Baird, Vice Commodore Dick Hobbs and Rear Commodore David Kessler reviewed the fleet from the Club's Portside Patio accompanied by Commodore Tom McMeekin and his wife Diane from Naples Sailing & Yacht Club, Commodore Robert Winterhalter and his wife Diana from Marco Island Yacht Club, and Commodore James Lozell from Naples Yacht Club.

In the Review was 19 Member vessels as well as the North Naples Fire Boat 1 and the Collier County Sheriff Marine Unit.

Once the Fleet Review was concluded, all Members and guests gathered by the Club Mast for the Blessing of the Fleet. The tradition of blessing the fleet began centuries ago in Portugal where villages sought divine intervention at the beginning of the fishing season, both for a good harvest and for protection from the dangers of the sea. To this day it is performed in fishing ports all over the world.

Following the Ceremony, Members and guests enjoyed a poolside barbeque lunch.

Pelican Isle Yacht Club recently re-opened in January 2018 following a \$4.8 million dollar clubhouse renovation. The Club is conveniently situated in an exclusive Southwest Florida location just five minutes from the open waters of the Gulf of Mexico at Wiggins Pass on the Cocohatchee River. Visit us online at [www.piy.net](http://www.piy.net).

### April 2018

#### *Main Deck:*

After decades of pushing bachelor's degrees, U.S. needs more tradespeople 2

Proposed Trump budget expands access to vocational programs 2

continued... U.S. needs more tradespeople 3

Support MIACC Foundation when you shop 4

MIPAC 2nd Quarter 4

Upcoming Events 4

#### *Welcome Aboard New Members:*

*Members Please Share  
The benefits of membership  
With your fellow colleagues!*

*Invite a new member to the  
Next membership meeting  
And earn a free meeting ON US!*

*Follow Us! Like Us!*  
Find Us on your favorite Social Media



## After decades of pushing bachelor's degrees, U.S. needs more tradespeople

At a steel factory dwarfed by the adjacent Auto Club Speedway, Fernando Esparza is working toward his next promotion.

Esparza is a 46-year-old mechanic for Evolution Fresh, a subsidiary of Starbucks that makes juices and smoothies. He's taking a class in industrial computing taught by a community college at a local manufacturing plant in the hope it will bump up his wages.

It's a pretty safe bet. The skills being taught here are in high demand. That's in part because so much effort has been put into encouraging high school graduates to go to college for academic degrees rather than for training in industrial and other trades that many fields like his face worker shortages.

Now California is spending \$6 million on a campaign to revive the reputation of vocational education, and \$200 million to improve the delivery of it. "It's a cultural rebuild," said Randy Emery, a weld-

ing instructor at the College of the Sequoias in California's Central Valley.

Standing in a cavernous teaching lab full of industrial equipment on the college's Tulare campus, Emery said the decades-long national push for high school graduates to get bachelor's degrees left vocational programs with an image problem, and the nation's factories with far fewer skilled workers than needed.

"I'm a survivor of that teardown mode of the '70s and '80s, that college-for-all thing," he said.

This has had the unintended consequence of helping flatten out or steadily erode the share of students taking vocational courses. In California's community colleges, for instance, it's dropped to 28 percent from 31 percent since 2000, contributing to a shortage of trained workers with more than a high school diploma but less than a bachelor's degree,

Research by the state's 114-campus community

college system showed that families and employers alike didn't know of the existence or value of vocational programs and the certifications they confer, many of which can add tens of thousands of dollars per year to a graduate's income.

"We needed to do a better job getting the word out," said Van Ton-Quinlivan, the system's vice chancellor for workforce and economic development.

High schools and colleges have struggled for decades to attract students to job-oriented classes ranging from welding to nursing. They've tried cosmetic changes, such as rebranding "vocational" courses as "career and technical education," but students and their families have yet to buy in, said Andrew Hanson, a senior research analyst with Georgetown University's Center on Education and the Workforce.

*Story continued on Page 3...*

## Proposed Trump budget expands access to vocational programs



The Trump administration's proposed budget allows student borrowers to use Pell Grants for short-term, non-traditional degree programs, such as vocational or technical schools.

Previously, federally funded Pell Grants could only be used toward defraying the cost of tuition at a two-to-four-year college or university.

Currently, community colleges report a 40 percent dropout rate and unemployment or underemployment for students who do graduate. Though job prospects have increased in the past few years, the cost of a community college degree versus that of a vocational training certificate is not commensurate to the benefits.

The budget acknowledges that "Pell Grants are the foundation of low-income students' financial aid packages" and thus keeps the funding at the same level as that of prior years, with the maximum award being \$5,920.

This award on its own, however, is only a small payment toward the ever-skyrocketing cost of tuition at America's four-year colleges and universities. Conversely, its value does go a long way when considering the cost of short-term, non-traditional degree programs — which average about one-fifth the cost of four-year colleges and universities.

Trade school graduates leave their programs with more job security, on average, than community college graduates. This results in part from the hands-on apprenticeships that students do while completing their certification. Vocational and technical degrees also take fewer years to complete, allowing individuals to move into the workforce more quickly.

Moreover, experts have acknowledged that there is a growing need for skilled labor, especially in the technology sector. The Bureau of Labor Statistics reports that the current need sits at 500,000 workers in the technology field alone, a figure which will only continue to grow as more companies move their production facilities back within U.S. borders.

The move to expand access to non-traditional degree programs is reflective of the current administration's priorities for higher education, as both President Trump and Secretary DeVos have stated that non-traditional degree programs are important and should be considered as viable alternatives to a traditional two or four-year college education.

The current labor market's desire for specialized workers certainly indicates the same, suggesting that the market demand for certain types of graduates is beginning to shape governmental policy priorities, rather than the other way around.



## continued...U.S. needs more tradespeople

Federal figures show that only 8 percent of undergraduates are enrolled in certificate programs, which tend to be vocationally oriented.

Sen. Marco Rubio, R-Fla., last year focused attention on the vocational vs. academic debate by contending during his presidential campaign that “welders make more money than philosophers.”

The United States has 30 million jobs that pay an average of \$55,000 per year and don’t require a bachelor’s degree, according to the Georgetown center. People with career and technical educations are actually slightly more likely to be employed than their counterparts with academic credentials, the U.S. Department of Education reports, and significantly more likely to be working in their fields of study.

At California Steel Industries, where Esparza was learning industrial computing, some supervisors without college degrees make as much as \$120,000 per year and electricians also can make six figures, company officials said.

Skilled trades show among the highest potential among job categories, the economic-modeling company Emsi calculates. It says tradespeople also are older than workers in other fields — more than half were over 45 in 2012, the last period for which the subject was studied — meaning looming retirements could result in big shortages.

High schools and community colleges are the keys to filling industrial jobs, Hanson said, but something needs to change.

“You haven’t yet been able to attract students from middle-class and more affluent communities” to vocational programs, he said. “Efforts like California’s to broaden the appeal are exactly what we need.”

Aside from marketing the programs differently and making them simpler to find and apply for, California is trying to ease the process through which individual campuses can add new programs that could help local businesses. If a region needs respiratory therapists, for example, community colleges will be able to avoid some of the red tape that previously hampered their flexibility to train new therapists.

“We definitely wanted to get out of the colleges’ way,” Ton-Quinlivan said.

The industrial course in which Esparza is enrolled is run by nearby Chaffey College through the community college’s InTech Center, a partnership with California Steel and other local manufacturers. At its completion, Esparza will have new skills he hopes will translate into a promotion and a raise of \$4 or \$5 per hour.

Like his classmates, Esparza, who starts work at 6 a.m., is looking at the class as a moneymaker for him.

“It feels very comfortable for me,” he said. And then, like many Californians, he reflects on his commute. “I don’t even have to catch a freeway to get here. How can it get better?”

But it can get better in California, where 30 percent of all job openings by 2025 — more than a million jobs — will require some post-high school education, according to the state’s community college system. Some on the industry side of the equation say that while colleges should have spent the past few decades building tighter bonds with local companies, those companies share the blame for vocational education’s tattered reputation.

Residents who have watched manufacturing companies relocate overseas may have not wanted to encourage their children to learn manufacturing-related skills, said Sam Geil, a Fresno, California, business consultant and adviser to the San Joaquin Valley Manufacturing Alliance.

“It doesn’t help when industry is moving out and laying people off,” Geil said. “It’s the relationship that industry has with the community. Industry could do a better job communicating.”

As with a lot of education challenges, money is also a big problem.

While a humanities class such as English costs a college just \$52 per student credit, a respiratory therapy class costs \$265, according to a 2013 report by the Institute for Higher Education Leadership & Policy. Equipment and trained instructors in some specialty fields can be prohibitively expensive for a college.

With state budgets in constant flux, colleges and experts say it’s essential that companies help pay for educational programs that directly benefit them. While that kind of cooperation has been rare, Chaffey College’s InTech Center is an example of how it could work.

California Steel chipped in \$2 million for the education center, which it leases to Chaffey for \$5 per year, said Sandra Sisco, the school’s director of economic development. Other local companies and colleges have invested, too. The center served about 1,300 students in the past year and plans to grow, she said.

The steel company agreed to work with Chaffey mostly because it was having trouble finding enough trained workers, said Rod Hoover, its human resources manager. And if California Steel’s competitors benefit from the classes on the factory campus, many of which provide skills useful in steelmaking, so be it.

“It was the right thing to do for our community,” Hoover said. “The selfish reason was because we needed craft workers and it was inconvenient to send them elsewhere.”

The InTech Center specializes in quick courses that help students like Esparza get ahead in their jobs, Sisco said.

“The reputation of the colleges being archaic and slow is still out there,” she said. As with many perceptions of vocational education, Sisco said, “That’s not necessarily true.”

Although a large percentage of InTech students are older than traditional-aged college students, Chaffey is trying to encourage younger ones to focus early on their career training.

The strategy worked with 17-year-old Derrick Roberson, who graduated in the spring from Montclair High School and is taking an industrial maintenance electrical and instrumentation InTech course as he trains to be an electrician.

Vocational courses in high school were seen as second-class, Roberson said.

“All throughout high school, they made it sound like going to college was our only option,” he said. “After you go to college, where do you go? It can open doors for you, but not as much as they make it seem.”

Career education boosters also say job-focused courses — and accompanying apprenticeships — can provide students with essential “soft skills” such as communication and conflict resolution that foster teamwork and reduce stress. And schools should consider blending traditional college courses with vocational ones, said Sean Gallagher, who recently founded Northeastern University’s Center for the Future of Higher Education and Talent Strategy.

“It’s often either vocational training or liberal arts,” Gallagher said. “But if you look at what employers want, it’s both, and I think that’s often lost in the dialogue today.”

*This story was produced by The Hechinger Report, a nonprofit, independent news organization focused on inequality and innovation in education.*

Marine Industries Association of Collier County  
 PO Box 9887  
 Naples, FL 34101

Phone: (239) 682-0900  
 Fax: (239) 236-9000  
 Email: [director@miacc.org](mailto:director@miacc.org)  
[www.miacc.org](http://www.miacc.org)

Frank Perrucci  
*President*

Chris Burkard  
*Vice President*

Stephen Strassel  
*Secretary*

Josh Maxwell  
*Treasurer*

Kit Sawyer  
*Past President*

*Directors:* Russell Burland, Ray Jahn, Jim Kalvin, Dan Mercier Sr.

Tiffany Sawyer-Schank  
*Executive Director*



## MIPAC 2nd Quarter Contributions

### Marine Industries Promoting Access for Citizens

In 2002 the Marine Industries Association of Collier County formed a Political Action Committee named Marine Industries Promoting Access for Citizens (MIPAC). This action was taken so that we can support issues and legislative candidates who assist the goals and purposes of the marine industries community.

On a quarterly basis, the MIPAC seeks donations of \$50.00 from each member. The MIPAC's mis-

sions and goals are to act upon problematic issues that must be addressed at the legislative level for the growth and protection of the marine industry. Monies collected from the MIPAC donations are used in supporting political decision makers that will tackle the very issues that affect all members of our industry. As a good steward of our member's donations, MIPAC adheres to uniform contribution criteria when determining how much and

*The MIACC represents you, the marine business owner and your business interests to the government and to the public. At a time when government regulations are expanding, the MIACC is striving to work with government - locally, statewide and nationally to protect equally all marine business concerns. Our goal is to inform our members how their business will be affected and how solutions can be reached if new regulations are at odds with marine business interests. In addition, it is equally important to work with the public in preserving their right to safe and fun boating. The MIACC works with educators and safety organizations to educate the public to practice safe boating. The MIACC also encourages members to put in place hands-on environmental business practices that will prevent pollution and damage to our coastal waters thus protecting boaters' enjoyment of healthy waterways and ensuring a sustainable future for the environment and the marine industry.*

to which candidate assistance is allocated.

MIPAC will educate you about the political landscape and issues facing our organization and will strategize political impact. In addition, the committee is always open to suggestions, questions and comments.

Please send your quarterly donations to MIPAC, PO Box 9887, Naples, Florida 34101



**2nd Quarter contribution requests will be coming soon! Please make checks payable to MIPAC**

## Upcoming Events

Membership Meeting: Pelican Isle Yacht Club  
 Marco Boat Show

May 15th 5:30-7:30pm  
 October 13-14, 2018



## Support the MIACC Foundation



MIACC Foundation has helped more than 10,000 children learn to fish. You can help kids fish, too!

Volunteer, donate, and shop with AmazonSmile they give a % of your purchase to MIACC Foundation.

Use this link

<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/65-0688131>

to link all your Amazon purchases to support the MIACC Foundation, then shop on Amazon by going to Smile.Amazon.com to automatically apply your purchases! It's easy and you will help a great LOCAL cause!