



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Jennifer Whitty
Cal Maritime
707-654-1720

Cal Maritime Adds New Athletic Director To Its Lineup

VALLEJO, Calif., May 7, 2004 – The California Maritime Academy (Cal Maritime), a campus of The California State University, announced today that Marv Christopher has been named its new director of athletics and recreation. Formerly the director of athletics at Cazenovia College in Cazenovia, New York, Christopher will take over the position left vacant by Harry Diavatis, who retired at the end of 2003 after serving as the director of athletics and recreation for 34 years.

Christopher will begin his duties beginning August 1, 2004 and will be responsible for the management and supervision of Cal Maritime's Department of Athletics, Physical Education, and Recreation, which includes such intercollegiate and intramural sports programs as men's and women's basketball, crew, golf, rugby, sailing, water polo, and women's volleyball.

"We are pleased that Marv Christopher will be joining us to lead our Keelhaulers athletics program," said Bill Eisenhardt, president of Cal Maritime. "We were impressed with his enthusiasm and vision — a quality we were looking for to help ensure that our students understand positive concepts of competitiveness, fitness, wellness, and leadership. Marv will be play an important role here as we expand our athletic offerings, begin planning and developing our new athletic facility, and look for new leadership development opportunities for our students."

- more -

Christopher served for 19 years as director of athletics at Cazenovia College. His activities and accomplishments at Cazenovia include developing and implementing a NCAA Division III athletics program for men and women from provisional status to fully sanctioned accreditation, initiating a NJCAA sanctioned men's athletic program at the formerly all women's college, and providing the vision and direction for building a multi-million dollar athletic complex.

Additionally, Christopher oversaw the development and implementation of an Outdoor Education and Leadership Program, supervised recruitment and retention initiatives for student athletes, and developed and supervised fundraising activities – including golf tournaments, Kid's Night Out, raffles, alumni events, lottery sales, and team promotions.

“I am thrilled to be joining the team at Cal Maritime,” said Christopher. “This is the ideal opportunity to apply my experience in athletics administration, and I believe that I can have an immediate and positive impact upon Cal Maritime's athletic programs. I look forward to the opportunity to assist in the planning and development of a new athletic facility for the campus. It is my hope to increase athletic participation by initiating a planned recruiting and retention program for student athletes, and increase our visibility and involvement with the greater Vallejo community.”

Prior to his position at Cazenovia College, Christopher was a physical education instructor. He has also served as the color commentator for Syracuse University's Women's Basketball.

Christopher is the executive director of the Greater Northeast Basketball Clinic; serves on the executive committee for the Association of Division III Independents (NCAA); and is a member of the Women's Basketball Coaches Association, National Association of Basketball Coaches, and Golf Coaches Association. He received a Meritorious Service Award from the National Junior College Athletic Association and has been Commissioner of North Eastern Athletic Conference (NCAA) and the Mid State Athletic Conference (NJCAA).

Christopher received his bachelor's degree in Physical Education from SUNY Brockport and his master's degree in Education from SUNY Cortland.

About Cal Maritime

Cal Maritime, a campus of The California State University, is one of only seven degree-granting maritime academies in the United States, and the only one on the West Coast. Tucked away in San Pablo Bay's Morrow Cove in Vallejo, Calif., Cal Maritime offers students four-year degrees in business administration, facilities engineering technology, global studies and maritime affairs, marine engineering technology, marine transportation, and mechanical engineering. For more information about Cal Maritime, visit www.csum.edu.

###