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Contact: Jennifer Whitty
Cal Maritime
707-654-1720

It's Back To Campus For Cal Maritime Cadets

Enrollment at an all-time high at Vallejo's CSU Campus

VALLEJO, Calif., September 7, 2004 — A record number of students converged today for their first day of classes at The California Maritime Academy (Cal Maritime), a campus of The California State University. Enrollment for the academic year is at an all-time high of nearly 700 students, which includes an entering freshman class of approximately 210. Enrollment is expected to grow to nearly 850 students in the next few years.

"Our record enrollment reaffirms that Cal Maritime is continuing to grow as a first-choice school for California students, as well as for students in the Pacific Rim," said Chris Krzak, director of enrollment services at Cal Maritime. "We're already known for our high caliber of students, but that's even more the case now with SAT scores and average GPAs of our entering students continuing to climb."

For the entering freshmen, the first day of classes began after five days of orientation, which covered everything from getting fitted for uniforms and meetings with their academic departments, to a pizza party and their first "formation."

"I'm a little nervous," said 17-year-old freshman Katie Kuykendall as she and her mom moved her belongings into the residence hall. "I feel kind of like when I started high school as a freshman, and I'm the little kid and there are all these big kids."

Kuykendall's mom, Dorothea Petty, fought back some tears while she helped her daughter move in, but says that the tears are mixed with sadness as well as happiness.

"I'm losing her, but I know I'm losing her to her future and not something bad," said Petty. "I'm proud of Katie; she's worked hard to achieve her goals. I think she chose the right place."

Since Cal Maritime is one of seven degree-granting maritime academies in the United States — and the only one on the West Coast — its students come from all over the state, as well as other states in the Pacific Rim. While eighty percent of the entering freshmen are California residents, six percent are from Hawaii, five percent are from the State of Washington, and approximately four percent are from Alaska. In addition, there are several international students represented in the Class of 2008, including students from Russia, the Bahamas, Germany, and Liberia.

Got Goals?

As part of Orientation, freshmen had the opportunity to meet one of the world's leading strategic thinkers — Gary Ryan Blair, president of The Goals Guy[®], a highly focused training organization whose mission is to help clients build and sustain superior performance. Blair believes that life will not go according to plan if you do not have a plan. He shares this belief and his unique strategies with school systems, sports teams, and companies around the world, including IBM, NASA, General Electric, Federal Express, Columbia Pictures, Ford and many others.

Blair is partnering with Cal Maritime on a "Got Goals?" leadership development program, which is brand new to the campus this fall. Through the program, students will learn leadership development skills and the importance of goal setting to achieve greatness.

"Students will learn goal-setting as a lifetime skill, which will position them for career opportunities," said Randy Tarkington, director of campus life at Cal Maritime. "Our students are the most focused I have seen in my 20 years in education, and the 'Got Goals?' program will allow them to improve that focus and perform at an even higher level."

Through the "Got Goals?" program, students will be divided into small groups, with a student leader assigned to each group. They will evaluate themselves as it pertains to goal achievement every two weeks. Rewards will be given to students who do the best job at achieving their goals.

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.