



CAL MARITIME

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30 HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS TAKE PART IN SIX-WEEK SUMMER ACADEMIC ENRICHMENT PROGRAM

(Vallejo, CA – June 28, 2007)... Thirty California high school students from nine primarily northern California communities arrived on the Cal Maritime campus Sunday, June 24th for the start of a challenging six-week Summer Academic Enrichment Program. The students, primarily juniors from underserved high-school districts, were selected for their academic promise. The program, organized by retired Marine Howard Jackson, exposes the participants to college-level coursework and a series of projects and experiences designed to help prepare them for the challenges of a college education.

During the program, the students —10 women and 20 young men—live on campus, eat in the dining hall, and have access to campus athletic facilities, classrooms, labs and faculty. They will attend classes and be graded on courses in college algebra, trigonometry and Calculus I, general physics, English literature and an introduction to Engineering.

Jackson said campus activities include weekday academic classes from nine to noon, English literature three nights a week, a three-day boating skills course which teaches them how to work as a team in powering a large oared boat, and an engineering project that will require student teams to design and construct small boats powered by a small steam engine. They'll also be taking part in trips and excursions and special exercises including a ropes course, a trip to the San Francisco Maritime Museum and Six Flags Marine World, and sailings on the Bay aboard a tall ship and the *USS Potomac*.

"The first day of the skills course, students are typically both curious and a bit frightened...many have never been in a boat before and the oars are large and heavy. Trying to coordinate with classmates is a challenge. It is always heartening at the end of the exercise to see them working as a team and sharing in their collective success at learning new skills."

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“It’s part of the program’s process of teaching, providing new experiences and building on success and accomplishment. We want to help these students recognize that they do have the skills needed to succeed in a college environment,” Jackson explained.

He also noted that Dr. Stephen Pronchick, Chairman of the Mechanical Engineering Department will conduct the small boat construction project. “The program is a great way to teach students physical principles — propulsion, how fast a boat can go, and the stresses it is subjected to in the water and under way. The fun part comes at the end of the course when students will race their designs against each other in the Academy swimming pool.”

Jackson said the success of the Academic Enrichment effort depends on enlightened support from a wide range of donors who cover all program expenses including: Cal Maritime; The California State University System; The Port of Oakland; The Oakland School District; the Clorox Foundation; Fremont Foundation, Wells Fargo Foundation; Benicia Valero Refinery; Peralta Community College District; the U.S. Maritime Administration (MARAD) and several anonymous donors. “Numerous of our donors have been with us since the program started,” Jackson notes with pride. “We’ve demonstrated a positive track record. On average our students raise their grades by an average of a half point and 90% of them go on to higher education after high school.”

This year, students will be attending from the following California communities:

Oakland (12); Vallejo (6); Rio Vista (4); Fairfield (2); Richmond (2); and one each from Newport Coast, Redding, San Francisco and Walnut Creek.

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