You love boats, boating and, for that matter, anything boating related. How would you like to get paid for doing what you love? If you or someone you know is unemployed or looking for a new career, the boating industry needs you. These hands-on marine education programs will teach you skills for the marine industry, so you can do what you love while earning a paycheck.

**Technical Programs**

The boating industry needs certified technicians to stay afloat. “What we’re noticing this year is that the industry is looking to rehire; the problem is finding technically-certified candidates,” says Ed Sherman, curriculum advisor at the American Boat & Yacht Council (ABYC), who develops training programs for the industry’s most highly regarded certifications. ABYC’s mission is to improve boating safety, reduce the number of injuries and fatalities on the water, and provide uniform standards for enhancing marine manufacturing, maintenance, repair, service, and safety standards. Five “Marine League” schools are strategically located across the U.S. in Hawaii, Washington, Maine, Rhode Island, and Florida.

In Florida, Broward Community College’s Dean of Transportation Programs Tony Petriello says they help

**By Laura Dunn**
Marine Systems, Marine Standards, and Air-conditioning.
(broward.edu)

Joe Charles, of Charles Industries (charlesindustries.com), donated an air-conditioned classroom to Broward Community College (BCC)’s marine program. “If we don’t have technicians, we’re not going to have an industry,” Charles cautions, and adds that training and certification are critical for keeping the marine industry alive.

Newport, Rhode Island’s International Yacht Restoration School (IYRS) is a marine trade and technology school founded by Elizabeth Meyer in 1993. Since partnering with ABYC in 2006, they’ve developed a career-training program in marine systems, complete with ABYC certification exams. Clark Poston, vice president of industry development for IYRS, says these ABYC standards are key. “If ABYC standards are used, it gives employees and insurance companies a level of comfort.” Poston adds that their hands-on education model is relevant to the boating workforce, they have a close network of advisors from key sectors of marine trade, and IYRS has high job placement rates. “[Their programs are] deeply rooted in the craftsmanship skills that technicians need for what they do and what they build.” (iyrs.org)

The Marine Mechanics Institute (MMI) trains students in all aspects of marine engineering, from outdrives to fuel or electrical systems. ABYC standards are infused throughout the program. Because MMI has multiple locations, students are able to choose where they would like to complete their courses. MMI instructor David Lynch says they have partnerships with companies such as Mercury Marine, which help them deliver the most current industry information available, provide feedback on changes that occur in the industry, and help MMI instructors stay current on what they teach. “Our instructors are required to participate in training provided by the manufacturers.” (uti.edu/programs/marine)

Seamanship Programs

For those interested in careers in the commercial and pleasure yacht sectors, the Chapman School of Seamanship trains students of all levels from their waterfront campus in Stuart, Florida. Ken Kramererman, program coordinator at Chapman, recommends the 360-hour (12-week) Professional Mariner Training Program. Students receive hands-on training on vessels, which prepares them for careers in the commercial and pleasure yacht sectors (e.g. captains who run dive boats, charter

Broward Community College offers eight ABYC marine certification programs covering important technical subjects for mid- to high-level experienced technicians.
sightseeing boats, crewmembers on a tug boat, etc.). “We try to create an atmosphere in the real world for when a crewmember is on a ship,” Kramerman says. “We build that mentality and follow-through for getting a job on the outside.” (chapman.org)

The Annapolis School of Seamanship dedicates itself to educating and empowering mariners with the ability to safely operate and maintain vessels. Licensed captains and industry trade experts often lead team-taught classes. (annapolisschoolofseamanship.com)

Maritime Professional Training (MPT) and Sea School are complete, full-service maritime schools that have trained thousands of commercial mariners, yachting professionals, and enthusiasts. They offer all levels of certification, license and document study programs. (mptusa.com, seaschool.com)

**Education for Families**

For a unique education experience, the SSV Oliver Hazard Perry (OHP) is an education-at-sea vessel for youth, families, educators, and mentors. Projected to set sail for the first time in July 2013, this tall ship is a 196-foot-long, 13.5 story-high, three-mast sailing craft, and the first full-rigged ship to be built in the U.S. in 110 years. Named for Newport’s War of 1812 naval hero Commodore Oliver Hazard Perry, she will be based in Newport, Rhode Island, with Richard Bailey as her official captain. Bailey was the captain of the 179-foot HMS Rose for 20 years.

For 13 professional crewmates and up to 36 “trainees,” OHP will be a podium for hands-on education, which includes challenging academics onshore followed by experiential utilization at sea. Students can earn academic credit and will work one-on-one with instructors in a casual atmosphere. Programs will range from an eight-hour day sail to semester-long programs. OHP Director of Education Jessica Wurzbacher says it’s easy to form bonds. “The strong community that develops among shipmates requires them to put others before themselves and communicate together effectively to safely accomplish tasks together, and move this giant vessel under the power of the wind.”

Wurzbacher says OHP offers a variety of life lessons. “Not only is the ship an ideal environment for students to advance socially, there is a great opportunity academically to apply concepts learned in the classroom to life aboard a ship as an effective way to encourage problem solving and reinforce broad and challenging topics.” She goes on to list examples, such as vectors and trigonometry in currents and navigation, mechanical advantage when hauling a line through a block and tackle, anticipating weather changes, studying maritime history. Wurzbacher says, “The topics are endless.” (ohpri.org)