

# **Marine Advanced Technology Education (MATE) Center Partnership Agreement**

## **I Objective**

This agreement serves to provide a framework and mechanism for cooperative activities of mutual interest between the signatories and the MATE Center. The signatories to this Memorandum of Understanding (herein referred to as 'member institutions') have agreed to procedures for cooperation as defined in this document. Signatories agree that this cooperation will benefit their institution and will support the mission of the MATE Center.

## **II The MATE Center**

The MATE Center was established with funding from the National Science Foundation in September 1997, under the auspices of Monterey Peninsula College. The Center was established as one of several National Centers of Excellence, funded under the NSF Advanced Technological Education (ATE) program (Division of Undergraduate Education). Two major goals of all ATE projects and Centers are: 1) to improve science, math and technology education in the United States and; 2) to improve and increase the Nation's technical workforce through industry/education. The ATE program's primary focus is on 2-year colleges and technical education, with strong partnerships and collaborations across all levels of education. The MATE Center is located at Monterey Peninsula College in Monterey California.

The MATE Center is a national consortium of organizations and individuals concerned with the broad field of marine science and technology and the education of people to work in that field. The Center is coordinating and facilitating the development of a national program for marine technology education involving community colleges, technical schools, 4-year colleges and universities, and high schools. The MATE Center emphasizes collaborations between educational institutions and industry, military, government, research, and labor organizations. These collaborations facilitate the development of courses and programs based on industry-established guidelines. This provides students with both academic and technical skills and knowledge. Importantly, these collaborations will allow for the development of an educational system that meets the needs of employers and students, is flexible, and provides employers direct access to students.

A major goal of the Center is to heighten the awareness of marine-related careers and provide students, educators, workers, and employers with up-to-date information to assist them in making informed choices concerning their future.

*MATE Center Mission:*

The MATE Center's mission is to help prepare America's workforce for ocean-related occupations utilizing information from employers and other stakeholders to improve and develop educational programs with a focus on marine technology. This will be accomplished through collaborations between educational institutions, employers, and the existing technical workforce.

*Guiding Principles:*

- Employer input is critical to the development of curricula and educational programs
- Partnerships with major stakeholders leads to better-aligned curricula and increased student and teacher opportunities.
- Partnerships with educational institutions is key to articulating clear educational pathways emphasizing life-long learning.
- Diversity is needed in the marine science and technology workplace.
- Innovative and quality curricula and degree programs lead to better-prepared students.
- Employers and students benefit from increased awareness of and access to marine science and technology programs and careers.
- Prepared faculty result in better students and workers.

*Major Goals*

1. Identify industry needs and develop industry guidelines for curriculum development
2. Develop new curricula and update existing curricula
3. Build industry and academic partnerships
4. Facilitate faculty development, and provide opportunities for faculty to interact with industry
5. Build a national clearinghouse for information transfer and dissemination
6. Increase the diversity of students and workers in marine related fields

### **III Member Institution Agreement**

This section shall be accompanied by an attachment, if appropriate, outlining specific conditions of the agreement.

Member institutions of the MATE consortium are diverse, and may include private and public colleges and research institutions, high schools, private industry, non profit organizations, state and federal government agencies, and labor organizations.

## A. Benefits to MATE Educational Institution Members

This Agreement adds value by demonstrating commitment to common goals and principles. Collectively, the membership of MATE can achieve progress toward minimizing barriers and maximizing flow of people, funds, and information between members. The MATE membership can be influential as a group in voicing concerns, and in disseminating ideas and models.

### **Benefits include:**

- Access to information collected and disseminated by the MATE Center.
- Access to curriculum modules developed by other members.
- An opportunity to engage in and direct specific projects related to the Center's mission.
- Increased communication with educational institutions developing or offering marine related programs.
- Increased communication with and access to employers and employees in marine fields.
- Participation in a National effort sponsored by the National Science Foundation to improve marine science and technology education.
- Increased opportunities for collaborative projects, including fundraising and grant writing, achievable only through pooling of talent and abilities.

## B. Member Institutions shall agree to the following (as appropriate to each institution's role):

1. As specified in attachment 1.
2. Share information, and contribute to the MATE national database.  
Examples: curricula, local industry information, assessments, and faculty development models.
3. Uphold the MATE Center guidelines and mission to enhance and/or improve technical education, especially as it relates to the marine workforce.
4. To the extent possible, acknowledge the MATE Center and the National Science Foundation in all products, deliverables, and materials produced as a result of working with the MATE Center, or obtained through the MATE Center.

## C. Examples of activities under this agreement

- Work to create 'MATE' students and 'MATE' programs which have national recognition.
- Actively engage in a coordinated process to incorporate industry guidelines into curriculum and program development.
- Incorporate hands-on workplace experience such as internships and Co-op experiences into MATE curricula and programs.
- Emphasize strong academic skills, interpersonal skills and SCANS competencies in MATE programs.

- Emphasize strong technical skills, as identified by industry, in MATE programs.
- Form strong regional industry/employer relations, including advisory groups
- Track ‘MATE’ students and provide the Center with information regarding student success. This includes college placement, institutional transfer, job placement, job advancement, and longevity on a job.
- Host and/or coordinate technical internships for faculty and students
- Develop partnerships with academic institutions such as high schools, 2 year institutions and universities to ensure regional academic collaborations and student transferability. Included here could be:
  - a. Agreements for joint enrollment of students.
  - b. Academic articulation agreements to ensure transferability of credits between institutions (seamless transition for students).
  - c. Pathways (such as in high school) to prepare and track students into marine science and technical careers and related fields.
  - d. Agreements for shared equipment and facilities between institutions.

D. The MATE Center will:

1. Develop processes and guidelines to facilitate interaction with stakeholders.
2. Make available information collected from stakeholders.
3. Develop curricula, and industry guidelines for curricula.
4. Develop guidelines for assessments.
5. Maintain an up-to-date website for member use and information dissemination.
6. Publish newsletters, brochures, and other promotional materials. These materials may be used by partners to publicize their efforts and programs.
7. Build national collaborations to gain support and build recognition of the Nation’s marine science and marine technology related academic and occupational programs.

### **III Continued Membership**

The MATE Center has the discretion to determine if signatories to this agreement may continue membership in the MATE organization.

#### SIGNATURES

\_\_\_\_\_  
Institutional representative

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Administrative representative

#### **Monterey Peninsula College representatives:**

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Nicole Crane, MATE Center Director

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Steve Kinsella, Vice President of  
Administrative Services

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Michael Gilmartin, Dean of Occupational  
and Economic Development