



Anchors Away: KCC's Landmark Partnership with New York Council Navy League



The New York Council Navy League (NYNL) of the United States

If you know anything about Kingsborough Community College (KCC), or even if you have simply seen photographs of the campus, then you know that the college's identity is inextricably linked to the sea. Founded in 1963, KCC occupies a Brooklyn peninsula that once hosted the Sheepshead Bay Maritime Training Center for Merchant Marines, Coast Guard and Navy and the Manhattan Beach Air Force Station. The sea flows through the college's DNA, and is most evident in the college's stellar Maritime Technology Program, the only program of its kind in the five boroughs.

It was only fitting, then, that in 2021, KCC would join forces with another storied maritime institution, the New York Council Navy League (NYNL) of the United States, which made a generous donation to establish *The New York Council Navy League Graduation Award*. Beginning this spring, the award will go to KCC graduates who have demonstrated exceptional character and work ethic, and who plan on continuing their careers in the maritime field.

Founded in 1902, the NYNL's mission is to promote, champion, and increase public awareness of sea services in our military, economy, and national identity. In addition to its new partnership with KCC, NYNL has also supported Navy Junior ROTC units in New York City public schools and SUNY Maritime in the Bronx.

"New York remains a major port of the United States," says Joseph Ryan, who serves on the Navy League's Advisory Committee. "The merchant marine industry will continue to experience growth, as coastal traffic in New York Harbor requires an increasing number of boats, ferries, and tugs, and as offshore power continues to be a game-changer. From an educational standpoint, KCC provides the training necessary to meet those challenges and enhance the workforce."



KCC's Maritime Technology Program in Action

Just as New York remains a hub for this industry, KCC continues to be an incubator for the maritime talent of tomorrow. "If you go on a New York Water Taxi vessel, a New York waterways vessel, a Hornblower cruise vessel, you will find Kingsborough graduates," says Captain John Nappo, Director of the KCC Maritime Technology Program. "Companies look to hire our graduates because of the practical hands-on training they get, and also because they have taken classes in everything from diesel to electrical engineering. So they're very well-rounded."

Yet despite the stellar training they receive at KCC, many maritime technology graduates struggle to afford the costs of what comes next, whether it be enrolling at a 4-year college or professional training in the maritime field. Like many of their community college counterparts, KCC's maritime students are often the first in their families to attend college and come from low-income households. *The New York Council Navy League Graduation Award* will address this

problem head-on, allowing maritime graduates to overcome financial roadblocks and hit the ground running in their careers.

As long as there is a need for talented, trained, and ambitious maritime professionals, KCC stands ready to provide them. And thanks to NYNL's generosity, KCC's graduates will have the wind in their sails like never before.

"In maritime, you can always expect the unexpected," says Mr. Ryan. "It is a great career choice for adventurous people, and the Navy League is honored to help KCC students pursue their own adventures in the field."



Throughout the year, the Kingsborough Kaleidoscope (aka "K-Scope") presents different facets of the Kingsborough experience—inspiring professors, student success stories, alumni testimonials, exciting new programs, news-making events and much more. We hope you enjoy these stories, and we also encourage you to share *your* unique KCC perspective with us. *Whether you are a current student or an alum, a faculty or staff member, a retiree or a distinguished donor, [you also can share your story!](#)*

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