

# NEWS OF JOBS

## Free Training And A Chance To “Sea” The World

(NAPSA)—At a time when higher education costs continue to rise, there’s actually a vocational training facility that does not charge entry-level students for tuition, room or board. Plus, it assures employment for its graduates.

The Paul Hall Center for Maritime Training and Education, affiliated with the Seafarers International Union (SIU), prepares students for successful careers as U.S. Merchant Mariners.

Based in Piney Point, Md., the school offers entry-level training; a program for military veterans; ongoing vocational classes; academic support and more.

Students are responsible for the cost of travel to the school, clothing and pre-entry medical screening. Classes, meals and lodging are free for those in the unlicensed apprentice program. Graduates of the entry-level training program are guaranteed a first job aboard one of the SIU’s contracted vessels.

The Merchant Marine is composed of men and women who crew U.S.-flag commercial vessels on the deep seas, inland waterways and Great Lakes. Although civilians, they are often referred to as the nation’s “fourth arm of defense.”

Since the founding of the United States, merchant mariners have played a vital support role in the nation’s conflicts. For instance, some of the vessels they work on transport troops and military goods.

The U.S. Merchant Marine also plays a crucial role in America’s peacetime economy by crewing the many vessels involved in international trade. U.S.-flag ships can be seen regularly in the major ports of the world. Crew members serve on all types of vessels, including containerships, tankers, bulkers,



**A training center that prepares individuals for a career in the Merchant Marine offers free training and a guaranteed first job.**

passengers vessels, tugs and much more.

Established in 1967, the Paul Hall Center emphasizes hands-on training and features top-notch educational equipment in a picturesque setting. In September 2002, the school opened an additional dormitory with more than 100 rooms.

Recently, the school opened a Coast Guard-approved safety school at Barber’s Point, Honolulu, Hawaii. This satellite facility trains students for new opportunities aboard U.S.-flag cruise ships, while helping meet the increased demand for trained mariners from Hawaii.

Though perhaps best known for its trainee program, the school also offers courses for veterans who have qualifying sea time in a deck or engine rating. Applicants must present a history of their assignments while in the military and an honorable discharge. Applicants cannot be on parole or probation and must have a valid driver’s license.

For more information, call toll-free at 1-877-235-3275 or visit [www.seafarers.org](http://www.seafarers.org).