ODU as a Globally-Recognized Institution Focused on Maritime Opportunities

ODU is taking a leadership role in a coordinated, regional effort to ensure a thriving maritime ecosystem that benefits not only Hampton Roads, but the entire Commonwealth.

THE MARITIME CONSORTIUM WILL

• Build upon, leverage, and coordinate ODU’s existing maritime-related academic, research, and innovation strengths through collaboration.

• Play a leadership role in expanding partnership opportunities with maritime-related organizations in the region, nation, and around the world.

VISION

To be an internationally-recognized maritime institution that will be a nexus for training, research, innovation, and commercialization.

The Hampton Roads Maritime Collaborative for Growth & Innovation (HRMC) identified a significant leadership role for ODU as one of its primary initiatives. HRMC was formed in 2020 to advance the region’s long-term economic development and innovation for the maritime ecosystem. In Fall, 2020, ODU President John R. Broderick established the Maritime Initiative Leadership Work Group, composed of 14 senior faculty and staff from all colleges and the Office of Research, to develop the ODU strategy.
Establishment of the ODU Maritime Consortium

A new organization, the ODU Maritime Consortium, would be established reporting to the Vice President, Office of Research and the Provost/Office of Academic Affairs. As initially proposed, it would include:

- A newly-defined Associate Vice President/Executive Director position to lead the effort;
- Reports to the Office of Research and dotted line to the Provost;
- An internal operations group representing the Colleges and key Centers;
- A technical group representing channels of expertise for collaboration and expansion;
- An “m-Collaborative”, a maritime-related network of faculty; and
- An external advisory board

Seven channels of expertise have been identified across the Colleges and Centers, including:

- Port Operations and Supply Chain
- Climate Change, Adaptation, and Resilience
- Digitalization of the Maritime Ecosystem
- Renewable Energy
- National Defense, Maritime, and Port Security
- International Trade and Development
- Tourism and Cultural Heritage

Goal

- Promote, coordinate, and expand the wide range of ODU’s maritime-related resources for curriculum/degrees and training, research, workforce, and innovation;
- Support naval and defense, shipbuilding/repair, commercial shipping, port and maritime supply chains, offshore wind, digital transformation and related sectors with leading-edge data analytics, operational and innovation resources, training, and research;
- Build upon the decades of training and educating the next-generation, college-degreed maritime workforce, while coordinating with the regional workforce pipeline (K-12 and community colleges);
- Leverage ODU’s established research and commercialization centers; and
- Serve as the “anchor” institution in Hampton Roads and the Commonwealth for economic development in the maritime sector.