



# NORTHEAST MARITIME INSTITUTE

## PRESS RELEASE

**FAIRHAVEN, MA JANUARY 8, 2015**

On January 8th, 2015, history was made not only with record breaking temperatures, but with the commencement of the first private maritime college in the United States at Northeast Maritime Institute (NMI). This is the first new college to receive approval from the Massachusetts Board of Higher Education in sixteen years. NMI is honored to offer a two-year Associate of Applied Nautical Science degree program, which provides its first cohort of six students the opportunity to learn through hands-on education from dedicated faculty and staff. The college will focus on educating mariners as well as developing well rounded citizens of the community. Students will be transformed into mariners through classroom support and summer internships.

At the ribbon cutting ceremony, which kicked off the student, parent, and faculty orientation, Fairhaven Selectman Bob Espindola stated the town was "very proud and honored to host the first private maritime college" in the United States. NMI's six new college students held one end of the ribbon, while New Bedford policemen and firemen, who are currently attending NMI's Continuing Education Captains Course, held the other. This was an especially poignant moment for Angela and Eric R. Dawicki, the founders of NMI, who have worked tirelessly to bridge the gap between continuing and higher education in the maritime industry. An Associate Degree program, in a field such as Nautical Science, offers students an education that allows them to enter the growing maritime job market immediately upon graduation. In most cases, students will earn more in their first year of employment than they spent on their college degree. NMI President, Eric R. Dawicki, has focused on creating a solution to the weight of student debt upon college graduates who are unable to secure employment in their field of study.



*(From Left to Right)*

*First cohort group of students for the NMI college program, College President Eric Dawicki, and members of the New Bedford Fire Department (attending continuing education classes at NMI) prepare for the ribbon cutting.*



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*Freshman Student Elijah Simmons, Bob Espindola (Fairhaven Selectman) Eric Dawicki (College President), Jeffery Ousuch (Fairhaven Town Manager), Charles Murphy (Fairhaven Selectman) Welcome the gathering of 70 students, friends, family, educators, faculty, parents and neighbors to the ribbon cutting event.*



*Mr. and Mrs. Kiernan and their son Kevin (from Mattapoisett) greet NMI President Eric Dawicki*



*Heather Correia, Laura Frazier, and Angela Dawicki (CFO of NMI) and new students Joh Carter and Elijah Simmons prepare to cut the ribbon.*

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