

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Sen. Lisa Murkowski Visits UAS Ketchikan Maritime Training Center

KETCHIKAN - The University of Alaska Southeast (UAS) Maritime Training Center in Ketchikan hosted Senator Lisa Murkowski for a tour of the facility on February 21. UAS Ketchikan has been training mariners for over thirty years. The UAS Maritime Training Center is a state-of-the-art facility that provides maritime programs meeting regional needs throughout Southeast Alaska. Located directly on the water, it houses a comprehensive welding lab, navigation simulator, and a diesel and electronics lab.

Sen. Murkowski noted that she was impressed with the facility and the labs, specifically the diesel, welding, and ship simulator labs. The tour was led by professors Mike LaBarge, Mariah Warren, and Larry O'Loane, along with campus director Dr. Priscilla Schulte. LaBarge teaches Maritime Studies, Warren teaches Marine Transportation in Security/Safety/Health, and Larry O'Loane is an Assistant Professor of Power Technology.

Sen. Murkowski expressed support for Alaska's maritime industry as a whole. She thanked each faculty member for providing "valuable training opportunities for Alaskans." With over 70,000 workers in the state's maritime industry, nearly all Alaskans depend in one way or another on the maritime economy. The state is highly dependent on shipping for imports of food and other goods, as well as exports for oil, seafood, and minerals. Alaska's economy is also dependent upon water transport, bringing visitors on cruise ships, managing ports and harbors, traveling on the Alaska Marine Highway ferry system, and maintaining the equipment and machinery essential to villages, towns, and cities.

UAS provides coursework needed to put students on the path to successful maritime careers. Using a combination of seetime and maritime classes taken at either the UAS Ketchikan or Juneau campuses, students can advance from deckhand to third mate. UAS prepares individuals to handle the responsibilities of limited tonnage vessels, and to take on the duties of an officer or owner. With a variety of our lecture courses delivered online, working students can attend class with added convenience.

The Qualified Member of the Engine Department (QMED) credential offers a unique opportunity for advancement in the maritime industry, meeting the United States Coast Guard Transportation Worker Identification Credential (TWIC) requirements. Students learn industrial skills that can be applied to occupations in ship building, mining, seafood processing plants and marine engine rooms, as well as other heavy industrial occupations.

Learn more about the UAS Maritime Training Center at www.uas.alaska.edu/ketchikan/krmcc or contact an advisor at uas.maritime@alaska.edu.

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Photo attached:

- Sen. Murkowski tours UAS Ketchikan Maritime Center Welding Lab

Additional Photos on google drive:

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1h2sdER4Hz4iV50xqXYZEIG_sJDBCxMsk?usp=sharing

- Group photo: left to right Mariah Warren (Assistant Professor of Marine Transportation), Senator Lisa Murkowski, Mike LaBarge (Assistant Professor of Maritime Studies), Priscilla Schulte (UAS Ketchikan Campus Director)
- Larry O'Loane (Assistant Professor of Power Tech) leads a tour of the Diesel lab for Senator Lisa Murkowski in Diesel Lab
- Group at entrance of UAS Maritime Training Center

Media Contact for UAS:

Keni Campbell

Public Information Officer

(907) 796-6509 office

klcampbell4@alaska.edu