



**PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Port Houston Partners in Maritime Education (PHPME)

WACO, Texas (August 1, 2018) – On Friday, October 12, the National Career Pathways Network (NCPN) will recognize the winner and honorable mention recipients of the 2018 Career Pathways Excellence Award competition. Three programs will be recognized at the annual conference luncheon at the Galt House Hotel in Louisville, Kentucky. Port Houston Partners in Maritime Education (PHPME) is one of two honorable mention recipients for 2018.

PHPME is a high school through graduate school career pathway designed to help students acquire the education, skills, and credentials necessary to succeed in the maritime industry. Port Houston launched the program in 2009, along with industry leaders, educational institutions, and business organizations to address the local maritime industry's aging workforce. Six high schools in four school districts adjacent to Port Houston offer the Maritime Academy pathway.

Participating students gain a deep awareness of maritime industry careers, learn valuable STEM-based industry knowledge, use state-of-the-art simulation equipment, and earn industry-valued credentials and dual credits. Outside the classroom students tour industry worksites, attend maritime industry forums, participate in internships, and earn college scholarships.

The four-year TEA-approved high school curriculum is based on a U.S. Maritime Administration (MARAD) model. The pathway introduces students to several industry sectors: maritime logistics, transportation and distribution; piloting and deck operations; maritime administration; marine engineering and naval architect; security and technology; and U.S. Coast Guard, Customs, and Border Patrol.

Since its inception, the program has had over 1200 students participate and in 2017-2018, there were 155 maritime high school graduates.

In addition, Port Houston collaborated with Texas Southern University (TSU) to develop a four-year academic degree program in Maritime Transportation Management and Security as well as developed partnerships with Texas A&M University Galveston, University of Houston, Houston Community College, Lee College, and San Jacinto College, whom all have maritime certificate and degree programs.

Open to any Career Pathways Initiative (state, regional or local), the Career Pathways Excellence Award emphasizes the importance of career guidance and advising, professional development for educators and employers, and the employer role in providing work-based learning opportunities for students.

NCPN (ncpn.info) is an organization for educators, employers, and others involved in the advancement of Career Pathways, career technical education (CTE), and related education reform initiatives.

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