

# HORRY-GEORGETOWN TECHNICAL COLLEGE

Category: Instructional Programs & Services



# OUTBOARD MARINE TECHNOLOGY

Charting a New Path for the Workforce

 **HORRY  
GEORGETOWN  
TECHNICAL COLLEGE**  
OUTBOARD MARINE TECHNOLOGY

# OUTBOARD MARINE TECHNOLOGY



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*"We figured out there is a true need. We did the research, we did the work, we did the legwork; there's a true need here. Recruits or the graduates aren't just making it into our community though; they're also making it beyond our community statewide and up and down the coast of South Carolina, North Carolina, Georgia. It has made an impact here, there's no doubt about it, wait times are lower; folks generally are a little happier around where I live, but I think they're making an impact all along the coast."*

**South Carolina Senator Stephen Goldfinch Jr.**



View Senator Goldfinch's complete interview on Vimeo.

# OVERVIEW OF THE COLLEGE



## OUR COMMUNITY

35 Yamaha Outboard Dealers within 90 miles of HGTC  
Horry County - 30% population growth

**Recreational Boating Economic Impact**  
South Carolina - \$3.9 Billion annually  
Regionally - \$480 Million annually

**Job Supported by Boating Industry**  
South Carolina - 15,064  
Regionally - 2,270

**Registered Boats**  
South Carolina - 567,443  
Regionally - 91,230

**Recreational Boating Nationwide**  
95% of boats sold in the US are made in the US



Horry-Georgetown Technical College (HGTC), a comprehensive, public, two-year college situated along the northern coast of South Carolina, provides higher education and workforce training for people and businesses of Horry and Georgetown Counties. The College was established in 1966 as part of the South Carolina Technical College System and remains the leading workforce development agency along South Carolina's upper coastal region known as the Grand Strand. HGTC is an open admissions college with over 70 certificate, diploma, and associate degree programs within the Academic division and over 1,000 courses offered in the Workforce Development division.



**JOB PLACEMENT**  
or Transfer into a  
4-Year University



**8,500**  
Headcount in Annual  
Enrollment within Academics



**2,200**  
Headcount in Annual Enrollment  
within Workforce Development



**\$2,186 PER SEMESTER**  
Lowest Tuition in the  
State of South Carolina



**4TH LARGEST COLLEGE**  
Among the 16 South Carolina  
Technical Colleges



**78%** of Students are Residents of Horry and Georgetown Counties

**97%** of Graduates are South Carolina Residents

**96%** of Graduates Remain in South Carolina



**\$48M**  
OPERATING BUDGET



**THREE CONVENIENT CAMPUSES  
PLUS ONLINE CLASSES AND DEGREES**

HGTC's mission is to provide accessible, affordable, high-quality, comprehensive two-year collegiate education and workforce development through traditional and distance learning delivery methods; to provide a student-centered environment and inspire lifelong learning; to promote learning through teaching excellence; to promote community service and embrace diversity; to promote economic growth, and to embrace technological innovation in instruction and workplace applications.

HGTC is a long-standing leader in workforce development and is recognized for its quick response to providing skilled workers in the community. Ideally situated in a tourism and hospitality destination, HGTC was the perfect location for charting a new pathway with the Outboard Marine Technology curriculum.

# CRITICAL NEED

In January of 2018, a local business owner, Marshall Altman of Marshall's Marine, along with Yamaha® representatives, met with college leaders to discuss a critical issue, which was stifling the boating industry. A lack of qualified workers was a common gap both local and national leaders in the boating industries faced. From the absence of a skilled workforce to having no training facilities in the local area, there was an undeniable need to take steps.



## “FROM EMPLOYERS:

*“There is a tremendous need within the industry around the country.”*

**Representative from Tail Walker Marine in Georgetown, S.C.**

*“The Outboard Marine program at HGTC is needed in this area as the marine industry continues to grow and needs new, young technicians.”*

**Representative from Coastal Marine, located in Myrtle Beach, S.C.**

HGTC administered a needs assessment to local employers to assess local needs to determine the community's need for a program. Responses indicated a vital need in the community for the program, with a total local need of 74 positions projected over three years. Nationally, the need is also critical. According to the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA), boating and fishing are the most significant outdoor recreation activities in the U.S., totaling \$23.6 billion in current-dollar value-added.

To support the industry and discussion of the workforce shortage, in a Jan/Feb 2020 issue of Marine Electronics Journal article “Where have all workers gone,” “there are an estimated 35,000 marine businesses in the U.S., which translates to 650,000 jobs. The article also notes the challenges to filling the jobs include:

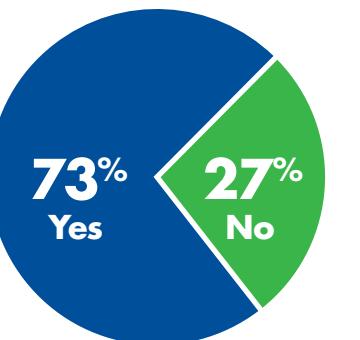
- **Shortfall of Qualified Workers**
- **Aging Workforce**
- **Declining Interest in the Trades**

- **Growth of the Marine Industry**
- **Need for Trained Technicians with Computerized Complex Systems**

*“With the new program, we hope to provide our local employers with the skilled workers they need while giving our students the training necessary for them to succeed in their new careers.”*

**Brandon Haselden, HGTC**

According to Economic Modeling Specialist International (EMSI), a labor market analytics tool that provides data to leaders in higher education and businesses, regional employment in this occupation is higher than the national average. In addition, HGTC's service area is a hotspot for this kind of job. The national average for an area this size is 31 employees, while there are 67 employees for HGTC's service area.



**Does your dealership have a technician shortage?**

HGTC made a commitment to area businesses and the marine outboard industry and began the journey to help address this crucial issue.

Shortly after the initial meeting, Horry-Georgetown Technical College President **Dr. Marilyn Fore** requested and received financial support of \$500,000 from area legislators for operating costs to support outdoor motor technician training. In addition, **Marshall Altman** of Marshall's Marine provided a letter of support.

**HGTC, with industry guidance, started the only Outboard Marine Technology program in a South Carolina two-year technical college, and is one of eight programs of its kind nationwide.**



# CHARTING A COURSE FOR A NEW CURRICULUM

In the Summer of 2018, work on the Outboard Marine Technology program began. As the College had no faculty, space, curriculum, partnerships, or equipment, the program was created from every angle, utilizing internal resources and new alliances.

## Steps included:

- Identified and prepared a new location on the Conway Campus; purchased furniture, equipment, and technology
- Hired faculty for a Spring 2019 start
- Created advisory board to identify competencies, develop curriculum, and identify equipment/lab needs; advisory board members included employees from Yamaha® Marine Corporation
- Recruited the Century Club supporters with \$10,000 in donations to the HGTC Foundation
- Created instructional packages, Student Learning Outcomes and Program Learning Outcomes (SLOs/PLOs)
- Started program through Workforce Development and began timeline for the state approval process on the academic side
  - Curriculum Review Committee
  - Cabinet
  - Area Commission – February 2019
  - Submitted to SC Technical College System
- Created print and electronic marketing material for distribution

*Students are eligible for free tuition, including Lottery Tuition Assistance, SC Wins, and other scholarship funding.*

HGTC offers the only Outboard Marine Technology program between Jacksonville, Florida, and Chesapeake, Virginia. The classroom training is coupled with industry-recognized credentials as one of only four programs offered nationwide with Yamaha Maintenance Certification modules. These certification modules include 1) Yamaha Introduction to Outboard Systems, 2) National Marine Electronics Association (NMEA) Basic Marine Electronics Installer, and 3) NMEA Basic 2000 Installer certifications.

The Outboard Marine Technology I certificate program began in Spring 2019 as a non-credit curriculum within the Workforce Development division before progressing to a certificate program as a credited curriculum under Academics. Classes are held Monday through Thursday on the HGTC Conway campus. The hands-on program runs three semesters and provides training in service, diagnostics, repair, and more. The Yamaha Motor Corporation sponsors the Outboard Marine Technology program. Students receive a Yamaha Marine University credential and are eligible for additional certifications once the competencies are passed.

HGTC offers the only Outboard Marine Technology program between Jacksonville, Florida, and Chesapeake, Virginia.

Curriculum Sequence		
<b>FIRST SEMESTER – FALL</b>		
MNT 120	Intro to Outboard Marine System	2
MNT 106	Marine System Electrical Basics	2
MNT 101	Outboard Marine Engines I	3
MNT 104	Marine Service Operations	4
MNT 109	Propellers	2
		<b>TOTAL 13</b>
<b>SECOND SEMESTER – SPRING</b>		
MNT 110	Outboard Marine Engines II	4
MNT 105	Marine Fuel & Lubrication Systems	3
MNT 107	Marine Electrical Systems	2
MNT 103	Rigging	3
		<b>TOTAL 12</b>
<b>THIRD SEMESTER – SUMMER</b>		
MNT 102	Lower Units	3
MNT 108	Marine System Electrical Diagnostics	3
		<b>TOTAL 6</b>
<b>TOTAL CREDIT HOURS 31</b>		



# TRACKING RESULTS

## Documented Outcomes

Many industries are facing dire worker shortages, including technicians for outboard marine. In a region where the boating industry is strong, a pipeline of qualified workers is critical to the workforce and the success of the marine industry. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the marine industry has continued to grow. In 2021, National Marine Manufacturers Association (NMMA) announced momentum of new boat sales, which reached a 13-year high in 2020 and remain at elevated levels – with sales through March 2021 up 30% compared to the 2020 average; demand is at an all-time high as Americans take to the water in record numbers, and dealers are selling new boats as fast as they receive them at the start of peak boating season.

With the increase in sales, the need for technicians also continued to grow and present a more significant challenge for the industry. HGTC has been responsive to community needs with this high-demand program's quick response and creation. From the beginning, there was a consensus among college administration that Matt Springs was the right fit to help build and teach the curriculum in the Outboard Marine program. As one of only ten Yamaha® Master Technicians in South Carolina, he brought a unique skill set to help address the critical shortage. During the last three years Professor Matt Springs, with the Outboard Marine Technology program, has produced successful and highly in-demand graduates, and has quickly built a strong reputation in the College and community. In addition, Yamaha University has recognized the HGTC program as a national training model, and the College receives countless visitors to the program to learn more about it.

HGTC is the only two-year college in South Carolina to offer this program sponsored by Yamaha. In passing the Outboard Marine Technology course competencies, graduates received a Yamaha Marine credential. This program covers all components and functions of an Outboard engine, including service, diagnostic electrical systems, rigging, propellers, lubrication, lower units, and fuel systems. After completing the program, students will obtain the skill sets needed to enter the workforce as an Outboard Engine Technician.



*"HGTC is the benchmark for Yamaha in their training as a nationwide partner."*  
**Kenyan Ward, Yamaha Training Coordinator**

**100%**

- Job Placement Rate
- Industry-Level Certification
- Yamaha Introduction to Outboard Systems Pass Rate



National Marine Electronics Association (NMEA) Member



Cohort Ages 17 to 68



10% Veteran Participation Each Semester

**88%**

**PASS RATE:**  
Yamaha Maintenance Certification Program (Mid-Range & Inline Modules)

## FIRST GRADUATING CLASS

In August 2019, Horry-Georgetown Technical College (HGTC) celebrated the first class of Outboard Marine Technology graduates through Workforce Development. Directly after Fall 2019, the new Certificate Degree for Outboard Marine Technology continued with a new group of students.

HGTC President, Dr. Marilyn M. Fore, congratulates the first class of Outboard Marine Technology graduates, professors, and sponsors in August 2019 graduation celebration.

## 2021 GRADUATING CLASS

Twelve graduates hold five industry level certifications.

Over the years, the Outboard Marine Technology program has been fortunate to be the beneficiary of a generous donation from industry partner Yamaha® Marine. The F250 motor was the third of three engines given by Yamaha Marine, valued at nearly \$30,000. This support of Yamaha Marine brought their funding total to over \$250,000 in equipment, including various motors, powerheads, lower units, starters, and other miscellaneous parts.

*"HGTC was pleased with the first graduating class of our Outboard Marine Technology students," said HGTC President, Dr. Marilyn Murphy Fore.*

*"The new program was developed to provide our local employers with the skilled technicians they need in Horry and Georgetown Counties. The development of a new program like Outboard Marine Technology would not have been possible without the support of HGTC faculty and staff and especially local businesses including Marshall's Marine, Sportsman's Choice Marine, Manning's Boat Service, and Coastal Marine."*

**Yamaha**  
Marine University™



Semester	Enrolled	Graduates	Retention
Spring 2019	18	16	88.9%
Fall 2019-20	18	14	77.8%
Fall 2020-21	18	16	88.9%
Fall 2021-22	18	17	94.4%
<b>Total Students</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>87.5%</b>



## PROGRAM ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND SUCCESSES



- Job Placement Rate
- Industry-Level Certification
- Yamaha Introduction to Outboard Systems Pass Rate



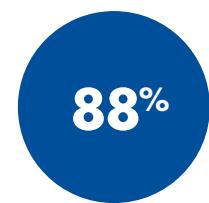
National Marine Electronics Association (NMEA) Member



Cohort Ages 17 to 68



10% Veteran Participation Each Semester



**PASS RATE:**  
Yamaha Maintenance Certification Program (Mid-Range & Inline Modules)

# TESTIMONIALS

One of the goals of the National Marine Electronics Association (NMEA) is to enrich the workforce of the marine industry. One important avenue to achieve this goal is to partner with trade schools like Horry-Georgetown Technical College. These partnerships, done through Memorandum of Understandings (MOUs) allow trade schools to teach NMEA Marine Electronics Installer curriculum to their students throughout the semester. The end result is a graduating student with a degree from the trade school AND their NMEA installer certificates, making them more marketable in our industry as a new hire. On top of this, NMEA's supporting organization, the International Marine Electronics Alliance (IMEA), has the tax structure to award industry scholarships to students enrolled in marine technology programs. Last year, IMEA awarded two scholarships, and has plans to award five scholarships in 2022.

**Mark Reedenauer, President & Executive Director,**

**National Marine Electronics Association (NMEA), International Marine Electronics Alliance (IMEA)**

The class is set up perfectly for students who want to learn about the industry regardless of their background. The hands-on aspect of the course allows students to learn and practice job skills daily and prepare for real-world application. Not only does the class teach you the everyday service skills that are most common to the industry, but also, Professor Springs spends his time teaching more advanced skills once everyone has gotten a firm grasp of the service procedures. After just a week at my new job, I found that I had the skills and knowledge to compete with technicians who had decades of experience. Not only could I compete with them, but I could also offer them new knowledge. Overall, the program allowed me to become more prepared for the real world. The opportunities it provides are virtually endless within the marine industry. **Joel Dorn, 2020 Graduate employed at Tailwalker Marine, Georgetown SC**



I chose to enroll in this school because I needed a job. However, I received much more than just a job with the knowledge and skills I obtained. In addition, I was exposed to a passion, which led me to pursue a life-long career in the marine industry. Stepping into class, I knew very little about a combustion engine. But, as weeks went by, my knowledge of outboard motors started to grow. I am very grateful for this class, Professor Matt Springs, our instructor, and everyone who played a role in making this opportunity available. It has truly changed my life. **Luke Rogers, 2019 Graduate employed at Marshall's Marine, Georgetown SC**

**2021 Graduate will be Brandon Tyler, 2021 Graduate employed at Sportsman's Choice Marine, Longs SC.** "I never had a boring time here, from lecture time to lab time, there was always something amazing to learn. There was always something to do, Matt never had you sitting around. I am excited about how big this industry is and the potential I have for growth in this profession."

View Brandon's complete interview on Vimeo.



## SHARED LESSONS

Colleges considering implementing a program will want to think about having flexible space on their campus. In this curriculum, high ceilings with roll-up doors were required to fully implement the program. While we were fortunate to have this type of flexible space, if this were not an option, the construction of a new space would significantly delay the start of the program such as Outboard Marine.

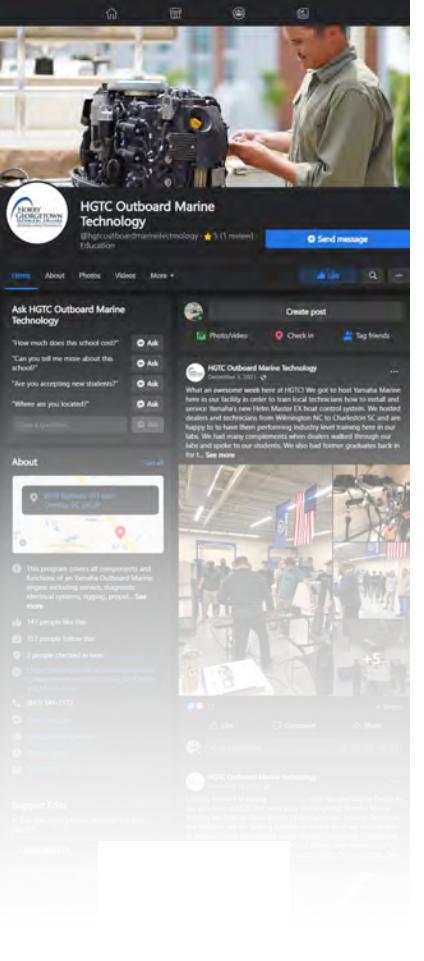
In addition to space, we were fortunate to have strong relationships with our industry partners. Our partners helped us connect with finding a qualified faculty member, identifying competencies expected from graduates, identifying the type of equipment needed, and providing generous donations. We would recommend colleges seeking to begin programs to make these connections in advance.

Industry partnerships have been invaluable to HGTC. Over the years, the Outboard Marine Technology program has been fortunate to be the beneficiary of generous donations from industry partner Yamaha® Marine. The F250 motor was the third of three motors given by Yamaha Marine valued at nearly \$30,000. This support of Yamaha Marine brought their funding total to over \$250,000 in equipment including various motors, powerheads, lower units, starters, and other miscellaneous parts.



"Yamaha Marine is thankful for the opportunity to partner with Horry-Georgetown Technical College to provide learning opportunities to students entering their career in the marine industry. This outboard donation gives the students hands-on experience to better understand and perform common service procedures they will be performing as Yamaha technicians."

**Gregg Snyder, Yamaha Marine Training Manager**



Follow HGTC Outboard Marine Technology on Facebook.



In memory of  
**Marshall Edwin Altman**  
1956 - 2021

# APPENDIX



YAMAHA MOTOR CORPORATION, U.S.A., Marine Business Unit  
1270 Chastain Road, Kennesaw, GA 30144 • 800-353-5900

August 26th, 2020

Horry Georgetown Technical College,

Yamaha Marine is heavily invested in the initiative of Growing Technicians. For 7 years straight, our Dealers have cited the need of service Technicians as their business' #1 issue. The marine industry is growing at a rate that the Technician labor supply is not matching. Over 73% of our Dealers need more Technicians, and 36% of those Dealers need more than one Technician to meet service demand. The Marine Industry depends on exceptional marine service professionals to support their customers; therefore, Yamaha is dedicated to growing new Technicians to transition into our Dealers.

Yamaha's Tech School Partnership Programs support High School and Post-Secondary marine programs across the country. We offer product donations, all service publications, parts purchases and heavily discounted engine purchases to support these Tech School Partners. Yamaha also has internal staff including management and executives dedicated to the mission of Growing Technicians through Tech School marine programs. We have over 95 Tech School Partners currently, the best of which includes Horry Georgetown Technical College and Instructor Matt Springs.

Matt is the only Yamaha Master Technician Instructor with a Tech School Partners of ours. Master Technician status is the most prestigious title bestowed upon a Yamaha Marine Technician; it shows that Matt has dedicated his career to being the best of the best in the industry. He also became NEMA certified, to strengthen his industry certifications as well as offer rigging components in the curriculum. In Yamaha's time with the marine program at Horry Georgetown Technical College, Matt has facilitated the most Technicians into Yamaha Dealerships. HGTC has also placed the only service manager into a Yamaha Dealership. From Yamaha Student Technician to a management position in less than 4 years is an astounding accomplishment, not possible without HGTC's support.

Horry Georgetown recently adopted the Yamaha Marine Maintenance Certification Program Mid-Range and In-Line modules. HGTC now offers 3 Yamaha certifications to go along with graduation from one of the most reputable marine programs in the country. Because of HGTC's excellence in the marine education industry, Yamaha is committed to supporting the school in every way possible.

Mark Harden is the Yamaha representative who first scouted HGTC, and from first meeting Brandon Haselden and Jeff, Mark worked with the school to guide the marine program in a direction that made it a showcase for the industry. All of Yamaha Marine Service Training supports the statement that Brandon, Matt, and all involved at HGTC have created a marine program that acts as a benchmark for all current and future marine education programs. HGTC is vertically aligned from the top all the way to the students in terms of dedication to supplying a state-of-the-art marine program.

- Yamaha Marine University

**Gregg Snyder**  
Marine Training Manager  
Yamaha Marine Service Division

**Mark Harden**  
District Service Manager  
Mark\_Harden@yamaha-motor.com

**Kenyon Ward**  
Marine Training Coordinator  
770-240-2539  
Kenyon\_Ward@yamaha-motor.com



## Memorandum of Understanding between HORRY-GEORGETOWN TECHNICAL COLLEGE

## and NATIONAL MARINE ELECTRONICS ASSOCIATION (NMEA)

HORRY-GEORGETOWN TECHNICAL COLLEGE  
2050 Highway 501 East  
Conway, SC 29528

National Marine Electronics Association  
692 Ritchie Hwy Suite 104  
Severna Park, MD 21146

### 1.1 Purpose

The MOU establishes the guidelines for marine electronics installer training collaboration between NMEA and HORRY-GEORGETOWN TECHNICAL COLLEGE: hereinafter referred to as the CLIENT.

### 1.2 Training Curriculum

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) sets forth the guidelines and terms for collaboration between the CLIENT and National Marine Electronics Association (NMEA) regarding curriculum delivery related specifically and only to the following NMEA training course(s):

- **Basic marine Electronics Installer Training**
- **Basic NMEA 2000 Network Installer Training**

Both organizations agree that expanding the number of qualified marine electronics installers and improving the quality of instruction to benefit the entire worldwide marine industry through a partnership/collaboration between the CLIENT and NMEA is desirable.

### 1.3 Agreement

CLIENT and NMEA hereby agree to work together to:

1. Schedule and deliver only the NMEA training course(s) listed in Section 1.2.
2. Collaborate regarding the marketing of said courses.
3. Jointly respect and acknowledge the work of both organizations at the local, national, and international levels to help communicate successful partnership efforts.

4. NMEA will bring any course materials requests for change from CLIENT to the NMEA education committee for consideration.
5. NMEA will assist in the procurement of training aids in a manner that is reasonable and consistent with the standards and practices of NMEA.
6. CLIENT agrees not to change the NMEA course material in any way.
7. CLIENT is responsible for grading all tests (passing grade 80% or higher) with the provided answer key.
8. CLIENT is responsible for sending the passing student(s) names to NMEA for printing of certificates.
9. NMEA is responsible for printing of passing student(s) certificates.
10. CLIENT is responsible for shipping charges to CLIENT facility for distribution to students.
11. NMEA will allow the CLIENT to display NMEA signage at the training facility.
12. NMEA will allow CLIENT to utilize the NMEA logo (following NMEA guidelines) on trade show and promotional material. NMEA may utilize the CLIENT logo on appropriate materials as well, consistent with the usage guidelines prescribed by the CLIENT.
13. The CLIENT understands that all NMEA courses and all related materials are properties of NMEA.
14. The CLIENT can either perform day long training on the NMEA training course(s) listed in Section 1.2. OR incorporate the training materials listed in section 1.2 into their curriculum.
15. CLIENT and NMEA agree that sufficient training has been provided to the CLIENT instructors to allow commencement of NMEA training following NMEA registration/qualification guidelines. CLIENT agrees to provide technical assistance regarding curriculum development to NMEA.
16. NMEA agrees that the CLIENT may be utilized as a testing site for NMEA exams and that the CLIENT instructors may serve as administrators or proctors for the exams.
17. CLIENT agrees to provide NMEA with their student contact information that have received a passing grade for NMEA

#### 1.4 Pricing & Fees

Enrolled students (or CLIENT) will pay the following for course materials:

##### **FOR MEI Course**

- \$75.00 USD for each NMEA certification exam (required)
- \$125.00 USD for a paper copy of the 0400 Installation Standard (required)

##### **FOR NMEA 2000 Course**

- \$75.00 USD for each NMEA certification exam (required)
- \$75.00 USD for paper copies of the NMEA 2000 Primer & Presentation (required)

NMEA will receive these fees above for each student enrolled. These fees are then paid to NMEA as they are considered pass-through and cover NMEA's administrative costs.

#### 1.5 Meetings and reporting

To accomplish these objectives, partners will agree to meet at least once a year for the purposes of program planning and monitoring and evaluating outcomes. A calendar of meetings will be established to schedule the meetings well in advance.

#### 1.6 Deliverables

CLIENT will provide:

1. Facility suitable for course delivery.
2. Qualified instructor.
3. Testing site.

NMEA will provide:

1. Course materials (MS PowerPoint Presentation).
2. NMEA 0400 Installation Standard.
3. Certification Exam.
4. Exam Answer Key
5. Student Certificate

#### 1.7 Duration

This MOU is at-will and may be modified with the mutual consent of the authorized individuals of CLIENT and National Marine Electronics Association. One signed by authorized officials of both groups, this MOU will begin February 1, 2020 and remain in effect until December 31, 2022.

**Signed,**

Name: Mark Reednauer	Name: John Springs
Organization: National Marine Electronics Association	Organization: HARRY-GEORGETOWN TECHNICAL COLLEGE
Title: President/Executive Director	Title: Associate Professor
Date:	Date:



## HGTC Outboard Marine Technology Making Waves

### Outboard Marine Technology Students are all in the same boat.

The HGTC Outboard Marine Technology program is already "making waves" in the field. Yamaha® Marine University, the program's dedicated industry partner, has consistently praised the success of the HGTC program as a national training model, as well as the exemplary leadership of Professor Matt Springs. It comes as no surprise that with 100% job placement already in Horry and Georgetown counties, this unique program is now beginning to meet the needs of other areas and attracting students from other parts of the state.

Keaton Gajewski, Andrew Yemec, and Will Wilson are three of those students. All from the Bluffton area, they moved here to expressly attend the HGTC Outboard Marine Technology program. They have spent a lifetime on the water in Bluffton and readily agree that all three of them love fishing and boating. So, a career as an outboard marine technician is a natural fit for all of them. According to Keaton Gajewski, HGTC was their choice because "this was one of the only programs in the state with the benefits of receiving state tuition and staying close to home."

While they only started the program in August, two weeks into it, they have already seen the benefits to their education and future careers. For Andrew Yemec, the part that has stood out the most to him is the ability to "work with my hands and learn new information about boats that I never knew before this program," he said.

All three students admit they are not the kind that like to sit at a desk all day, so the experiential approach to the program is ideal. The three are also elated about learning from their professor, Matt Springs. They agree that Professor Springs "brings a lot to the table" based on his own career and expertise as a Yamaha Master technician. Professor Springs explained his approach as a way to share his experience especially his shortcomings and what he learned through trial and error. "I try to present a real-life scenario of what it will be like on the job," Springs said.

The students also praised the benefits of the program's strong partnership with Yamaha, the top outboard motor provider. They acknowledged that as technical students, they have direct access to the same Yamaha resources that dealers have. At the end of the program, they also have the opportunity to achieve not only the HGTC program certificate but also their Yamaha IOS and MCP technician certificates from Yamaha Marine Corporation's Maintenance Certificate Program. These are industry certifications that follow the student as they negotiate their careers in the marine industry. According to Professor Springs, the certification attests to their ability to perform. "Anyone can teach how to complete the work, but it takes skill to perform to Yamaha standards to gain the proper certification that those outside this program would not have the chance to achieve," he said.

The trio already has plans for what they will do with the knowledge and skills they receive from the Outboard Marine Technology program. Andrew Yemec is looking forward to getting a solid job at a marina. While he cannot say for sure right now, working toward that Yamaha Master Technician designation is a definite possibility. That of course would make Professors Springs very proud. "While I have not seen a student achieve that goal yet because our program is so new, I love thinking about the day when I am reading about someone I taught, in a Yamaha publication who is a new Master Technician. Will Wilson intends to go back to the Charleston and Beaufort area and focus on the goal of being a true mechanic one day. Andrew Yemec hopes his outboard marine skills will lead to a life of traveling, working, and fishing throughout South Florida, as well as the east and gulf coasts.

Professor Springs has all confidence in those career plans. "This is a small industry with plenty of contacts. Any of our students, no matter where they are from, should have no problem getting a job in the field they love. We have built a solid reputation with this program to give our students an abundance of opportunities," said Springs.

## HGTC Outboard Marine Receives Donated Motor from Yamaha

In December 2019, the Horry-Georgetown Technical College (HGTC) Outboard Marine Technology program was the beneficiary of another generous donation from industry partner, Yamaha® Marine. The F250 motor was the third of three motors given by Yamaha Marine valued at nearly \$30,000. This support of Yamaha Marine brought their funding total to over \$100,000 in equipment not including powerheads, lower units, starters, and other miscellaneous parts.

"Without a doubt, HGTC is grateful and proud of the contributions Yamaha Marine has made to our College," said Dr. Marilyn Murphy Fore, HGTC President. "Because of their persistence to assist in the success of the Outboard Marine Technology program, HGTC is providing top of the line training for students. We hope our community recognizes special gifts like this bestowed upon our College."

HGTC is the only two-year college in the state of South Carolina to offer this program sponsored by Yamaha Marine. In passing the competencies of the Outboard Marine Technology course, graduates receive a Yamaha Marine credential.

"HGTC is happy to be in such a great partnership with Yamaha Marine," said Matt Springs, Associate Professor of Outboard Marine Technology. "It shows that Yamaha has a vested interest in our program by providing vital tools to help our students learn about the marine industry."

HGTC began accepting applications for this new Outboard Marine Technology program in the fall of 2018. The program was created in response to a significant local industry need for a skilled workforce in this area. Yamaha Marine has been a dedicated industry partner needed to ensure the success of the program.

"Yamaha Marine is thankful for the opportunity to partner with Horry-Georgetown Technical College to provide learning opportunities to students entering their career in the marine industry," said Gregg Snyder, Yamaha Marine Training Manager. "This outboard donation gives the students hands-on experience to better understand and perform common service procedures they will be performing as Yamaha technicians."

