

**From:** [President of CSU Maritime Academy](#)  
**To:** [President of CSU Maritime Academy](#)  
**Subject:** Chancellor Office Proposal -- The Future of Cal Maritime  
**Date:** Wednesday, June 5, 2024 12:07:13 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[image002.png](#)

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June 5, 2024

Dear Members of the Cal Maritime Community,

I am writing to share a major development with you that, if approved by the Board of Trustees, will significantly influence the future of Cal Maritime and our mission.

The Chancellor is announcing today a recommendation to integrate California State University Maritime Academy and California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo. Under the proposal, our Vallejo campus, pier and training ship mission will be retained but will be integrated with Cal Poly.

The Chancellor's Office recommendation is subject to the approval of the CSU Board of Trustees. If approved, this will be a bold and exciting opportunity to advance the core educational mission of both institutions, increase enrollment, and protect our critical academic programs.

The recommendation to integrate the two universities was not made lightly. Given the magnitude of the pressing fiscal and enrollment challenges we face, it has become very clear to CSU leadership that a strategic change is needed.

As you know, the university has implemented numerous actions and is considering additional steps towards reducing expenses and increasing revenues over the next three years. However, further reductions to our operating budget risks compromising Cal Maritime's critical infrastructure and unique educational mission.

We are at a critical juncture wherein Cal Maritime will struggle to remain viable as a standalone institution without a significant increase in resources and funding. However, our ability to obtain additional permanent funding in an amount sufficient to make a marked impact is impossible given the current budget environment. To preserve Cal Maritime's educational mission, which is essential to national security and the economic strength of California and the nation, this integration proposal offers what I believe to be the most viable course of action.

When I consider the strength and sheer tenacity of Cal Maritime, and the power of Cal Poly – one of America's most highly ranked, highly-sought after universities – I see nothing but amazing opportunity in this proposed integration. I am confident this will lead to greater stability, create more opportunities for students, and preserve our critical educational mission that supports a vital part of the national economy.

Cal Poly was selected given the programmatic similarities, their renowned engineering offerings, dynamic enrollment management capabilities, and robust financial and administrative resources. For Fall 2023, Cal Poly was unable to admit over 30,000 highly qualified students who applied for admission. These are students who are also competitive applicants at many of the UC campuses and elsewhere. Most of those applicants had over a 4.0 GPA and over 40% of them were applying to majors in Engineering or Computer Science. These are students CSU and Cal Poly would love to admit but cannot because of space and enrollment limitations. Integrating Cal Maritime and Cal Poly will allow us to accept more students interested in pursuing an education at our campus. It will also expose greater numbers of potential applicants to the amazing opportunities available to them with a state maritime academy education, whether license track or related major.

We also need to be thinking about 2026 and the arrival of our new training ship. Training Ship *Golden State* will have exceptional classroom and laboratory space, as well as berthing for over 600 students. We must begin increasing our enrollment now to take advantage of the full capabilities of the ship. Integrating with Cal Poly will allow that enrollment growth to begin.

In short, the integration will allow both institutions to fully leverage our mutual strengths and build upon similarities, including a shared foundation in applied learning. The integration may also present an opportunity to compete for greater federal funding in areas such as national security and renewable energy and increase our research opportunities.

The proposed integration is anticipated to be brought before the CSU Board of Trustees for information and discussion at its July and September meetings before being voted on in November 2024. If approved by the board, the integration would begin in July of 2025 with the first maritime academy students enrolled as Cal Poly students in fall of 2026.

I will keep you updated regarding the proposed recommendation and relevant planning efforts. Additional details about this proposed integration, as well as FAQs, are available on the [CSU's website](#). I urge you to read the Chancellor's important announcement on this proposal. If approved by the board, this will change the future of Cal Maritime for the better. Thank you for being a valuable part of this remarkable effort.

Respectfully,

Mike

**Michael J. Dumont, J.D.**  
Interim President



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