



PRESS RELEASE

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HLSCC MARINE STUDIES BENEFITS FROM GROWING RELATIONSHIP WITH ABYC

Thursday, January 28 – The HLSCC’s Marine Studies continues to benefit from its growing relationship with the American Boat and Yacht Council (ABYC).

Head of Marine and Maritime Studies, Ms. Susan Zaluski said, “Since the college launched a relationship with ABYC in 2019, the Centre for Applied Marine Studies has benefited through curriculum and instructor development, scholarships and physical resources.”

During the summer of 2020, three HLSCC instructors and staff members, namely Mr. Maurice Marchand, Mr. Matthew Holt and Mr. Joseph Wells completed training to become ABYC Standards Certified Advisors.

Together, they have been delivering ‘Fundamentals of Marine Service Technology’ as part of HLSCC’s new Marine Professional Training Programme (MPT), a rigorous training programme developed to provide specialised training for the BVI’s marine industry.

In December 2020, HLSCC Marine Studies lecturer, Mr. Maurice Marchand, was named 2020 ABYC Foundation’s Educator of the Year, Runner Up, competing against a pool of marine instructors from around the world.”

Ms. Zaluski added that Marchand’s prestigious honour is part of HLSCC’s flourishing association with ABYC.

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The ABYC Foundation has also provided special scholarships for three students enrolled in the MPT programme's second cohort, complementing financial support provided by the Government of the Virgin Islands and UniteBVI Foundation.

The relationship with ABYC has also helped to net the donation of physical resources to support enhanced student learning opportunities at HLSCC. Two, 2019 BRP Evinrude 300hp E-Tec engines were delivered to the Centre for Applied Marine Studies' marine engines classroom before the end of the fall 2020 semester.

The engines, which will be used for computer diagnostic fault finding and service training purposes, will be set up during the spring semester to benefit current and future marine studies students.

ABYC is a non-profit, member organization that develops voluntary global safety standards for the design, construction, maintenance, and repair of recreational boats. Offering certification programmes and continuing education courses, ABYC also works to assist its affiliated marine trade schools in curriculum and instructor development.

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PHOTO CAPTION:

1. Vice President of Academic Affairs, Dr. Arlene Smith-Thompson; Instructors, Captain Matthew Holt, Mr. Maurice Marchand, Mr. Joseph Wells; and Dean for Workforce Training, Mrs. Marva Wheatley-Dawson are pictured with the Marine Services Technology ABYC banner. **(Photo credit: Junior Daniel/HLSCC)**
2. Dean for Workforce Training, Mrs. Marva Wheatley-Dawson; Marine Studies lecturer named 2020 ABYC Foundation's Educator of the Year, Runner Up, Mr. Maurice Marchand; and Vice President of Academic Affairs, Dr. Arlene Smith-Thompson pictured with ABYC certificate and banner. **(Photo credit: Junior Daniel/HLSCC)**

