

# Position Transitions on Marine Industry Technical Education Council



By Caroline Chetelat, Director, Marketing and Communications

The Marine Industry Technical Education Council (MITEC) recently announced the confirmation of two new Council members, and that the Secretary will be leaving the Council. Representing a cross section of the recreational marine industry, including boat manufacturers, boat yards, repair facilities and marinas, community workforce development partnerships, dealers and retailers, education and training institutions, engine and systems manufacturers, independent technicians, surveyors and yacht brokers, the volunteer Council members provide guidance in furthering MITEC's mission of facilitating the creation and sustained availability of a technically skilled and proficient labor force for the marine industry through education, training and professional development.

With past Council members Dolores Blueford of Integrated Projects Network and Larry Goudy of G&G Marina, Inc. departing after their initial terms, MITEC welcomed Ann Avary, director of the Center of Excellence for Marine Manufacturing & Technology at Skagit Valley College and Michael Esposito, president of the Irish Boat Shop, Inc.

**Ann Avary** – *Center of Excellence for Marine Manufacturing & Technology at Skagit Valley College, Oak Harbor, WA*

Ann has been the director of the Center of Excellence for Marine Manufacturing & Technology at Skagit Valley College, Whidbey Island Campus since November 2007. Prior

to accepting the position of director for the Center, she worked as a consultant for several years doing project management and technical work for a range of clients that included the South East England Development Agency and United Way of Kitsap County. Before entering the consulting world, Ann spent four years doing rural economic and community development after a lengthy stint in banking as a commercial real estate underwriter and compliance officer. Anne has a Bachelor of Arts in economics.

**Michael Esposito** – *Irish Boat Shop, Inc., Harbor Springs, MI*

Michael was selected to be president and CEO of Irish Boat Shop, Inc. by the company's Board of Directors in 2007. He is responsible for the overall operations of the multi-location marina, boatyard and dealership to include business development, staff development and shareholder return on equity. Prior to accepting this position he was vice president and general manager of the Irish Boat Shop, Inc. since 1994. Before joining Irish Boat Shop, Michael spent seven

years at a yacht yard in Chicago as the general manager. Irish Boat Shop values education and has always believed in the necessity of educating employees so that they might do a better job serving their customers. In 2007, Irish Boat Shop received the American Boat Builders and Repairers Association (ABBRA) Commitment to Training Award. Michael has spent his life on the water, and also spent some time as a sailing instructor. He has a Bachelor of Arts in economics from the University of Rhode Island.

MITEC also announced that Skip Burdon, president of the American Boat & Yacht Council (ABYC), who has served as the MITEC secretary for the past three years and spearheaded the creation of MITEC, will be stepping down from his position



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on the Council. Burdon said, “I accepted this position because I passionately believe in the essential role of MITEC in our industry. I wanted to ensure that the organization got off the ground and made progress during its infancy. However, with an increased need to focus on the ABYC membership and programs during this downturn in the economy, I wanted to open this spot up for a new Council member who can devote the necessary time, attention and energy to do justice to this position and the Council.”

As a co-sponsor of the Conference on Marine Industry Technical Training (COMITT), ABYC will continue to provide economic assistance in concert with *Professional BoatBuilder* magazine and

the National Marine Manufacturers Association (NMMA). Ed Sherman, ABYC’s curriculum designer and full-time instructor, will continue to be an active member of the Council and continue to serve in his role as division chair of the PDD, as well as the MITEC ExCom, and Jack Honor, an ABYC Board member and SAMS/NAMS representative is also remaining on the Council.

Steve Kitchin, MITEC chairman and vice president, corporate education and training at New England Institute of Technology said, “Without Skip’s vision and understanding of workforce development issues, MITEC as we know it today would not exist. And without the outstanding administrative support of the Council by ABYC, the progress made to date by MITEC would also not have happened. The efforts made by Skip and the ABYC team are directly attributable to Skip’s leadership and passion for the marine industry and his commitment to an available and qualified workforce for this industry. On behalf of the Council, I sincerely thank Skip for everything he has done for the Council.”

To learn more about MITEC and careers in the boating industry, visit [www.boatingcareerinfo.org](http://www.boatingcareerinfo.org). Also visit MITEC’s social networking site, [www.marinelearning.com](http://www.marinelearning.com). ■

MITEC would also like to thank the Society of Accredited Marine Surveyors (SAMS) for their recent donation of \$1,000 that will be utilized for MITEC projects and programs. Industry support from organizations such as SAMS is a powerful and necessary factor in helping MITEC, and we are making a difference through such support!

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