GREAT LAKES BOAT BUILDING SCHOOL
A Marine Trades Institution

in partnership with MERCURY UNIVERSITY

STEM2STERN NEWSLETTER



Coming Spring 2022

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Dear Great Lakes Boat Building School Friends,

In the Spring 2021 Stem2Stern, I hinted at having good news to share in the Fall 2021 Stem2Stern – and now I can share this **AWESOME NEWS!**

In Fall 2020 GLBBS applied for funding from the Economic Development Administration (EDA) to help pay for a 10,000 sq. ft. building so we can expand our program offerings and launch more careers. In May, the school received a "Merits Further Consideration" letter from the EDA which set out the requirements we had to meet for final approval – and we are almost through that process!

On the cover is our architect's rendering of the new building. Our expanded space will allow us to increase enrollment while continuing to provide high-quality hands-on instruction. The added space will make it possible to have a new program in Marine Electronics starting in Fall 2023.

We are excited about this project and its positive impact, and we hope you will join us in making this happen!

A grant from the EDA requires a 20% match from GLBBS. There are additional expenses not covered by the grant such as tools, equipment and furniture. The grant will not cover the additional expenses and which equal approximately $400,000.

Board Chairman Joseph Reid announced our "Come Aboard...Launch Careers" capital campaign at the 100th birthday celebration for the Les Cheneaux Islands iconic boat "Boss", a 1921 cruiser. The capital campaign, chaired by Board Directors, Janet Carrington and Jason Dunn, has a $1.1 million goal. At the Boss birthday celebration, Jason explained why the building expansion is important:

> *"I believe Great Lakes Boat Building School is a great contributor to our community and state. Not only does the school train students to work for the marine industry, and keep our boats running, but the economic impact of the school on our community is significant."*

We are reaching out to Michigan's marine industry, government agencies and individuals just like you for support. We are pleased to announce Mackinac County has recently committed $200,000 of American Rescue Plan Act funding to build this facility.

As we invite you to support our capital campaign (through gifts and pledges) we hope you will do so while still making your annual gifts. Year-end giving is important for the school, and we are grateful for each of you.

Thank you for continuing to share our vision of GLBBS as the leader in marine workforce development in the Great Lakes region. With your support we are launching careers in the marine industry!

Sincerely,



Nikki

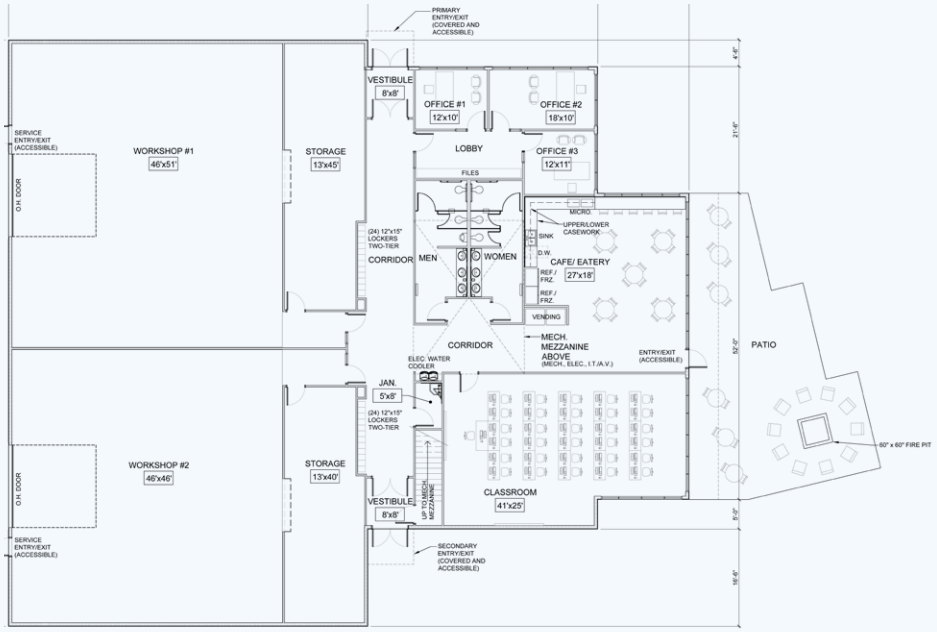
Nikki Storey, President

Come Aboard... LAUNCH CAREERS!

THE PLAN:

Spring of 2022 – break ground on a 10,000 sq. ft. facility providing more workshop and classroom space with opportunities to offer additional courses.

As of Fall 2023 – GLBBS will be on the way to achieving its long term goal of enrolling 100 students each year!



Facility expansion layout



Co-Capital Campaign Chairs Jason Dunn and Janet Carrington, GLBBS President Nikki Storey and Chairman Joe Reid with rendering of new GLBBS training facility

"The Competence of all facets of the school and the people in it blew my mind. People that cared about me and taught me a tremendous amount. I went on 5 job interviews and had 5 job offers. It was a mind blowing time. This whole thing led me down the path to something I love so much."

SCOTT WEBSTER '18



Mackinac County Commissioner Mike Patrick and President Nikki Storey "envisioning the future"

"GLBBS pumps a lot of knowledge and training into 12 months, from lofting, to mold making, propulsion courses, general knowledge on how boats operate, installing equipment, wiring, finishing, and so much more. I went from knowing very little to knowing a vast amount about the nature of boats, woods, and marinas all in a one-year span."

BRETT WILCOX '19



GLBBS ANNOUNCES *Sponsorships and Endowed Scholarships*

One of the best ways to make a significant impact on on Great Lakes Boat Building School and its students is through scholarship and sponsorship. It is with great pleasure to announce two new endowed scholarship and a new sponsorship.

RAE TAYLOR MEMORIAL ENDOWMENT SCHOLARSHIP FUND



Rae Taylor

After reading the Fall 2020 Stem2Stern article written about the Duke Harding Endowed Memorial scholarship, Mrs. Dianne Taylor, inspired by Mrs. Harding and her family, contacted GLBBS to establish an endowed memorial scholarship to honor her late husband Rae who had a love for boats. Mrs. Taylor intends to invest in the endowment to allow for a $2,500 annual scholarship award to support students and their career aspirations.

GEORGE HENRY NICKELS AND THE LES AND JACKIE STINER MEMORIAL ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP FUND

George H. Nickels was a lifelong boat builder and boater. He worked in his father's company shop while he was in school and later, along with his brother, was the co-owner of the Nickels Boat Company. George was an accomplished wood and fiberglass craftsman building many different boats in his lifetime.



George H. Nickels posing on his 28 foot sailboat in his "Nickels Boat Works" shirt.

Les & Jackie Stiner, friends of George, have established an endowed scholarship to honor his memory. The Stiner's believe that no one succeeds in life without assistance from others and they are deeply appreciative of the help that they personally received in life. They hold to the truism that it is a very good thing in life to give a "helping hand up" to others, when you can as a repayment to society for those who have helped you.



Jackie and Les Stiner posing by artifacts they have collected from their travels.

GAGE MARINE SPONSORSHIP

As with many marinas across the country, there is a labor shortage of skilled craftspeople and technicians. Gage Marine management decided to take matters into their own hands and contacted GLBBS looking for help. Through many meetings, Gage Marine established the 1st sponsorship to benefit a student enrolled in the Marine Service Technology program who agrees to future employment at Gage Marine. We are pleased to share with you the team at Gage Marine has selected Kyle Faner from Ishpeming, Michigan as the 1st student to receive an employer sponsorship at GLBBS! FJ Frazier, Chief Operating Officer of Gage shared "Gage Marine is excited to be involved with GLBBS and looks forward to seeing Kyle develop into an outstanding technician". Thank you Gage Marine and congratulations Kyle!

Check out student Kyle Faner proudly sporting his new Gage Marine gear on the next page!

Congratulations TO OUR RECIPIENTS!



LES CHENEAUX HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Benjamin Wisenbaugh



TOMMY MERTAUGH MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP
Caleb Kohlmann



DUKE "FRANK" HARDING ENDOWED MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP | David Turner



ELK RIVER MARINA EMBASSADOR SCHOLARSHIP
Gabriella Inman



ANTIQUE CLASSIC BOAT SOCIETY SCHOLARSHIP
Jacob Paulsen



TOMMY MERTAUGH MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP
Joshua Loeb



GAGE MARINE SPONSORSHIP, HIGHFIELD SCHOLARSHIP | Kyle Faner



TOMMY MERTAUGH MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP
Miles Carlson



GLBBS GENERAL SCHOLARSHIP, LCCF ANNUAL ASK
Xavier Bedell

Thank you to our generous scholarship supporters!

PROGRAM UPDATES



By Lead Instructor Matt Edmondson '13

In September of 2021 GLBBS welcomed its class of 2022, with a solid class for both the Comprehensive Career Boat Building Program (CCBB) and the Marine Service Technology (MST) Program. Both classes started their year off by getting into the shop with the CCBB group working on tool skills and step stool planning, and the MST learning to drive boats, and rigging a new outboard in their first week.

Eric Renshaw, CCBB Instructor, has made curriculum changes to ensure more consistency of skill building among the students. Using the concept of team boat building, the CCBB class will construct three replica lapstrake Indian River Skiffs this fall, rather than our normal one boat. The class is broken into three teams of builders, and each boat will be built side by side with measurable results from launching to final finish. The boatbuilding class will also be completing the Huron 20, with assistance from the MST program for rigging and electrical work. Restoration projects will include WILLARD (see previous S2S) and a Concordia built Beetle Cat sailboat.



Alum Geoff Hamilton from E.J. Mertaugh Boatworkds providing students a tour on a field trip



Having a little fun while tearing apart a motor.

On the MST side of the shop, students rigged and lake tested a new outboard in their first week. In addition to the normal classwork, the Marine Service class spent as much time as possible on the water, learning to drive and dock multiple boats, including our single engine Chris Craft Holiday (often considered to be the most difficult engine arrangement to dock). Students also learned the fundamentals of internal combustion engines and have performed experiments to show what happens when things go wrong. The most popular example was when the students (and curious instructors) decided to run a small engine without oil and then disassemble to perform failure analysis. (For those curious, a Harbor Freight motor ran for 21 minutes without oil!)

Other highlights of the first term for the MST class were a seminar on mechanical fastening theory from friend of GLBBS Paul Tabor and his colleague Deep Gaijar from Atlas Copco. Students learned about torque specs of fasteners, how engineers determine those values, and how to operate the extremely precise ST wrenches donated by Atlas Copco.



Paul Tabor sharing his knowledge on Atlas Copco donated wrenches.



MST Instructor Mike Downey teaching some boatyard operations

Students have been introduced to ABYC standards early, with guidance and training provided by MST instructor Mike Downey. They are beginning their certification process by studying for the ABYC Standards Knowledge certification test, and observing these systems hands on by visiting boatyards and customer boats with Instructor Mike. Thanks to the generosity of Viking Boat Harbor and Passage Boatworks, Mike has been able to take the MST class on live customer boats to observe how systems are installed, and how to spot issues of safety or noncompliance.

This opportunity to go offsite for these inspections is a massive advantage in connecting the class to the real-world life of a marine technician.

Students in both classes are practicing truck, trailer, and boat launch and retrieval procedures (yes, backing up included!) with Career Service Advisor Matt Dost. Matt, with years of experience in heavy equipment, is ideal for that flavor of driver's education. Both programs have also participated in a resume workshop from Michigan WORKS, which has become part of our career placement and exploration goals for students at GLBBS.

We are looking forward to a winter full of boat building, engine rebuilding, and teamwork!



Students excitedly and patiently waiting for an engine motor to blow up.

Meet Our NEW MARINE SERVICE TECHNOLOGY INSTRUCTOR



MIKE DOWNEY

Mike has lived in Northern Michigan since 1989. Prior to moving he was raised in Upper Darby, PA and was a member of the United States Coast Guard. He has worked at B.F. Boats, Walstrom Marine, Bergmann Marine, as well as taught classes for ABYC and The Michigan School before taking his position teaching the Marine Service Technician Program at the Great Lakes Boat Building School. He holds many certifications in the boating industry, including the honor of being the very first ABYC Master Technician. Additionally, Mike has a vast experience in diesel mechanics, but specializes in other boat systems such as Seakeepers, air-conditioning, and electrical systems. Mike loves boats and will gladly "talk boat" to anyone!

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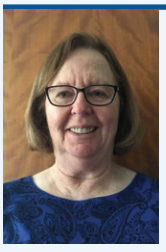
Introducing OUR NEW STAFF MEMBERS!



Beth Autore, lifelong resident of Cedarville, MI has joined us on staff and is serving as our Chief Financial Officer. Beth's first connection with GLBBS was through her father Tony Autore who was part of the school's launch. With 39 years of experience in leadership and administration at Autore Oil and Propane Beth is a very welcome addition to our team. When Beth is not at work she can be found cooking and spending time with family and friends and her golden retriever Lucy.



Rhonda Miller, the school's new Director of Operations, was raised in Cedarville, MI but lived most of her adult life in Vermont where she pursued a career in accounting. Rhonda practiced accounting in the dental, banking, telecommunications, manufacturing, and construction industries, and after 40 years away she knew it was time to come back to live and work in her beloved Les Cheneaux Islands. Rhonda describes her work as a way to give back to the community and serve the students. She is focused on enhancing the school's operations with her skills and knowledge in accounting. When Rhonda's work day is done you will often find her spending time with family and friends and walking, biking, or boating.



Sue Cotten began working with GLBBS when the school applied for a grant from the EDA in 2020, and since then she has joined the staff as our Donor Adviser. Sue has a background in health care, campus ministry, publishing, and law. When Sue's not working, she is enjoying time with her grandchildren and being outdoors on the water in her canoe.

Congratulations CLASS OF 2021



GLBBS 2020-21 Graduates and Instructors

On August 20, 2021 Great Lakes Boat Building School graduated the 16th Comprehensive Career Boat Building class and the 1st Marine Services Technology class.



"Shipmates of the Year", CCBB Instructor Eric Renshaw, CCBB recipient Michael Lehmkuhle, Lead Instructor Matt Edmondson, and MST recipient Kevin Flood.

This year's ceremony featured a new student recognition for the Comprehensive Career Boat Building program. The Mertaugh Family Craftsmanship Award recognizes the superior marine craftsmanship of Jim Mertaugh and his sons, Tom and Dan, throughout the Les Cheneaux Islands over many years. This recognition is for the graduate who most closely exhibits the skill, artisanship and commitment of these prized craftsmen. The first recipient of this award is Michael Lehmkuhle.



Amy (Mertaugh) Paczkowski presents the Mertaugh Craftsmanship Award to recipient Michael Lehmkuhle.

ALUMNI CONNECTION WITH KEVIN FLOOD

GLBBS 2021 MARINE SERVICE TECHNOLOGY GRADUATE



KEVIN FLOOD
Marine Technician

Q How did the time you spent at GLBBS prepare you for your new job?

A My time at GLBBS really showed me the differences in my existing skill set to better adapt it to a marine environment.

Q What is the most important or valuable thing that you learned at GLBBS?

A We are in the middle of the haul out season, so currently, it has been the winterization of engines. The practice I was given at GLBBS has allowed me to jump right into the process.

Q What do you love most about your current job?

A I love working on the large vessels that my area allows, and being part of a good team of people. Being near the water doesn't hurt my feelings as well.

Q What do you think was the biggest benefit of attending GLBBS?

A The biggest benefit has been a mix of getting that general knowledge base of what to expect in the industry, and the recruitment opportunities it afforded.

Q What do you miss about your time at GLBBS?

A I miss the atmosphere and my classmates. It was a great time, in a wonderful area.

Q What words of wisdom would you share with prospective students?

A There will always be challenges and hang ups, but no matter what, just always move forward.

Q Anything you would change about your time at GLBBS?

A I would have liked to have been there for a non pandemic year. While the great group of people I was with worked together when everything was shutting down, I would have liked to take more advantage of what the area had to offer.

Q Anything else you'd like to share about your time at GLBBS or your current position/company?

A I work on and operate amazing boats, in a beautiful area, doing a job I like. It's all I wanted out of the course.



2021 DONATIONS INKIND LIST

Thank you **EJ Mertaugh Boat Works** for your donation of 10 engines for use in our Marine Service Technology program! Your gift of these engines: 40 Mercury, 150 Evinrude, 70 Evinrude, 40 Mercury, 200 Mercury EFI, 75 Evinrude, 90 Mercury, 135 Mercury Optimax, 200 Optimax, 20 Mariner will expand our students' experiences, helping them become skilled technicians.

Our High School CTE program has also benefited from donations of engines. Thank you, **Les Cheneaux Landing** *(Mark and Esther Engle)* for your donation of these engines: 5.5. Johnson, 9.8 Mercury and two 9.9 Evinrudes. Thank you **Cedar Bay** for your donation of two engines, a 6 Johnson and an 8 Johnson. Thank you **Cedarville Marine** for your donation of these engines: 4 Johnson, 5.5 Johnson, 9.8 Mercury, (2) 9.5 Johnsons, (2) 25 Johnsons, (2) 35 Evinrudes and a 35 Mercury.

Shoutout to owners of **Elk Rapids Marine**, *Lew and Susie Cooper*, for sponsoring the Wine and Whiskey pull at this year's Boatyard Bash! The event raised more than $25,000 for the school - helping us keep student tuition as low as possible. Thank you!

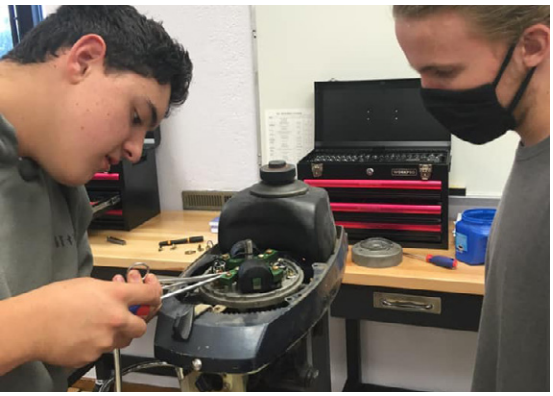
Les Cheneaux Distillers support and generosity is remarkable. We have a true partnership with them as they are investing in the school's success and our community. Just in the last few months Les Cheneaux Distillers helped create and promote our "BOSS Signature Drink" competition, provided in-kind donations for the BOSS party and tended bar that night and supported our annual Boatyard Bash fundraiser. Thank you Les Cheneaux Distillers for all you do to support the Great Lakes Boat Building School.

And thanks to *Daryl Heyboer* of Mercury Marine for coordinating from **Manitou Pontoon Boats** the donation of a Mercury joystick piloting system. Shout out to Manitou for the generous donation

Thanks to **Atlas Copco Tool & Assembly Systems** — A donation of (3) Atlas Copco ST Wrenches, with a realized value of approximately $80,000, was donated to the school for use with engine building and repair. This equipment will greatly assist and augment the school's newly accredited (2020) Marine Service Technology (MST) and Small Engine Technician (SET) programs. The MST and SET programs are being sponsored in part by Atlas Copco Tool & Assembly Systems customer, Mercury Marine. Hence, students of these programs will learn the fundamentals of engine building and repair utilizing equipment similar to that used in production by Mercury Marine.



THE CTE SMALL ENGINE PROGRAM'S EQUIPMENT REQUEST









The CTE Small Engine Program began September 7 at Cedarville High School. Eight students from Cedarville and Pickford signed up to take the year-long course. The students spend two hours every school day working on small outboards following ABYC's Fundamentals of Marine Service Technology curriculum.

The students' first two days in the brand-new classroom consisted of opening the individual student tool sets and assembling the workbenches and stools for the shop. Then we dove right into the shop safety lessons so that everyone was on the same page with shop behavior expectations.

Since the shop is housed in a conventional classroom, there is a limit of 25 horsepower for motors that we bring inside. To make the most of the autumn season, we spent every nice day in September and October outside working on boat yard basic skills and boat winterization. The students learned how to start a diesel tractor and back up a trailer. Considerable time was spent backing trailers down the launch ramp and launching and loading boats. The students also spent time practicing their boat driving skills with a 24 ft pontoon and a 14 ft tiller steer outboard. The students learned how to properly winterize outboards and place them in storage.

During days that we stayed in the shop, the students learned how to service water pump assemblies. The students also practiced replacing points and condensers in older magneto ignitions. Carburetors were disassembled and cleaned as well. All aspects of routine maintenance were covered in the fall. The students also studied the similarities and differences between two-stroke and four-stroke engines.

This winter the students will completely disassemble a severely worn outboard. They will examine the wear and attempt to put it back together. Students will also complete a unit on boat and trailer wiring where they will have to build working models. The CTE Classroom currently has a dozen donated outboards to work on. Some will be repaired, and some will be used for instruction and not returned to running condition. We are always looking for more to broaden our selection of brand, size, and age. **If you have an outboard of 25 horsepower or less and are willing to donate it to the classroom, please contact GLBBS.**







Boss is a 42' Day Express Cruiser built in 1921 by the Great Lakes Boat Building Corporation of Milwaukee Wisconsin. Boss' 100th birthday was celebrated with a variety of events coordinated by the Great Lakes Boat Building School and E. J. Mertaugh Boat Works throughout the summer of 2021. Here are some outtakes:



























2021 BEERFEST & BOATYARD BASH RECAP!

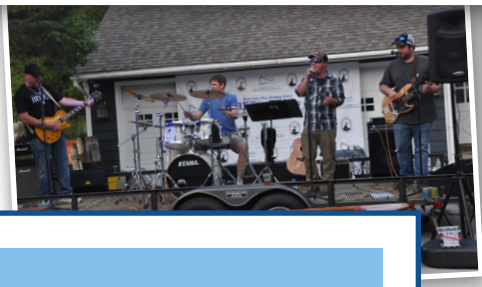
Summer 2021 Boatyard Bash was back in full force! Featuring local band Project 906, a wine and whiskey pull, games of skill, raffle and many beers to sample! Below are pictures of our volunteers in teal shirts who put the work in to make the event a great success. Through the contributions of local businesses and the time of our volunteers, we raised approximately $25,000 to offset program expenses. A big thank you to all of our volunteers and sponsors! We'll see you on Friday, September 2, 2022.

















2021 CREWMEMBERS OF THE YEAR AWARD!



Congratulations to our **2021 Crewmembers of the Year**, Rob & Karri Ross. Rob & Karri have given generously of their time and energy since 2019 and we are so grateful they are GLBBS volunteers. Rob & Karri say their favorite part of volunteering is "meeting new people and engaging with GLBBS staff and seeing the positive impact" their volunteering has on the lives of students and the success of the school. Rob and Karri, like so many of our volunteers, are always willing to help whether it is for an event or offering housing to students or GLBBS visitors. Karri & Rob would love for you to join them as volunteers! **Congratulations Rob & Karri!** We are grateful to have you as "Crew".

Upcoming Events AT GLBBS

Come visit us for an immersive opportunity to get to know our programs, instructors, staff and campus. Remember to pre-register for our On Site Visit Days at glbbs.edu/onsite-visit-day-registration/

FEBRUARY 12

ON SITE VISIT DAY
(SNOWSFEST WEEKEND)

JUNE 4

ON SITE VISIT DAY
(ALSO LEOPOLD FESTIVAL WEEKEND)
www.aldoleopoldfestival.com

DECEMBER 1

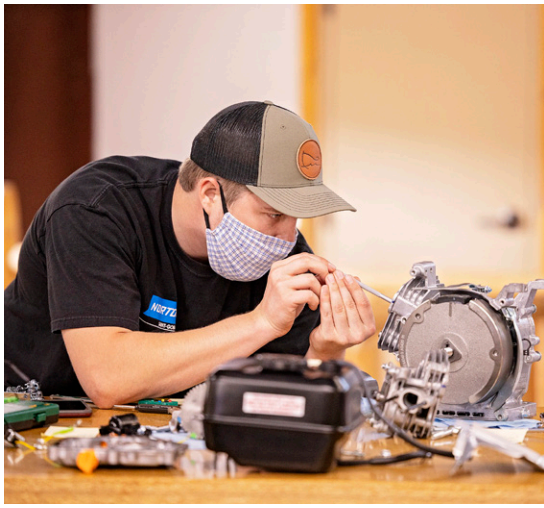
EARLY COMMITMENT DAY



We invite you to join us in

LAUNCHING MORE CAREERS





Who Will Benefit?

MY STUDENTS

MATT EDMONDSON '14
LEAD INSTRUCTOR

"The prospective student interest in the marine service technology program has continued to grow to the point we have waitlisted students due to lack of space. The new facility will allow for DOUBLING our enrollment. Designed specifically for relevant marine skills training, the new workshops will not only meet the needs of our students but also meet the skilled training needs of marine industry employers."

THE MARINE INDUSTRY

NICKI POLAN
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,
MICHIGAN BOATING
INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION

"Michigan is the third largest marine market in the country and with nearly one million registered boats ...we estimate nearly 50% of our citizens take to the water each year to boat and fish. Our industry has a $7.8 billion economic impact on the state's economy each year and we need qualified marine technicians to keep it going and growing."

FUNDRAISING PROGRESS:

RAISED TO DATE: **$3,056,377**

WE HAVE RAISED 81% OF FUNDS NEEDED

TOTAL PROJECT COST: **$3,752,972**

Dear Supporter,

You might already know this but it needs said: YOU are the essential ingredient in our success!

As a non-profit school, we depend on the support of school friends, industry partners and our community to make projects like this one possible. Your support keeps tuition affordable - we are now asking for your support in expanding our facility, programs and impact.

Please consider an additional gift to the capital campaign this year. In making your annual contribution, please let us know how you would like the funds directed. Thank you for being a great support of our students and programs!

Gratefully,
Great Lakes Boat Building School

You can make your gift online at www.glbbs.edu or by calling 906-484-1081. Thank you!

A MESSAGE FROM THE *Board of Directors*

The success of our graduates continues to energize each of us. At a time when skilled marine trades are in great demand, we deliver. Our success drives us to increase this career opportunity for more individuals. We invite you to join us in launching more careers!

Respectfully,
JOSEPH D. REID
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD



MISSION

Great Lakes Boat Building School prepares students for rewarding careers in the marine industry.

VISION

To be the leader in marine workforce development in the Great Lakes region.

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Joseph Reid
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