

Worldwide Ferry Safety and Technology Conference
2016
Panel on Training Challenges and Innovative Solutions
Moderator's Opening Remarks

Good afternoon and welcome to the panel on Training Challenges and Innovative Solutions. I have been deeply involved in maritime training and education for most of my career, including during my tenure on the administration of the State University of New York Maritime College and thereafter in senior operational management positions in industry, including my current position at the Staten Island Ferry.

I have seen a variety of training methods during my career, beginning as a cadet on the training ship at the State University of New York Maritime College and then primarily seeing the mentoring method and onto simulation.

At the Staten Island Ferry, we have utilized the mentoring or shadowing method of training, but Captain John Garvey, Director of Ferry Operations, and I have struggled to develop a way in which to standardize training and come up with an objective method of assessment, in particular when it comes to promoting a mate to assistant captain.

We very much wanted a way in which to ensure that we were making objective and good decisions in this regard, so we have embraced the e-learning and blended methods developed by one of our panelists Murray Goldberg of Marine Learning Systems. Murray is working with us on a program for Deckhands and Mates and we are looking very much forward to initiating this program.

At this point, I want to turn this over to our panelists.

James C. DeSimone