

2025

AMERICAN CARIBBEAN MARITIME FOUNDATION

ANCHOR AWARDS

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 6
LAUDERDALE YACHT CLUB, FT. LAUDERDALE, FL

HONOREES:



Louis E. Sola

Partner, Thorn Run

Former Chairman,

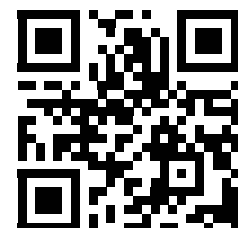
Federal Maritime Commission

-and-



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Aaliyah Allen

ACMF Tropical Shipping Scholar
2025 Award Recipient
*Atlantic Alliance Off-Shore Maritime
Training Institute, Guyana*



Tyreese Alexander

ACMF Tropical Shipping Scholar
2024 Award Recipient
Matpal Marine Institute, Guyana

INVESTING IN TOMORROW'S MARINERS

We believe the maritime industry depends on empowering the next generation of mariners. Tropical Shipping and Saltchuk, our parent company, are proud to support the American Caribbean Maritime Foundation, whose scholarships, internships, and training strengthen the sustainability of our industry for years to come.



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Message from the Patron and Keynote Speaker

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Greetings on behalf of the Government and People of Belize to all gathered for the prestigious ACMF Anchor Awards.

The maritime sector remains the backbone of Caribbean trade and connectivity, and I commend the outstanding contribution of the shipping industry to investment, job creation, and sustainable growth across our region. Belize, among other Caribbean countries, is deeply appreciative of the ACMF's mission to strengthen Caribbean capacity through education and opportunity, and we recognize the invaluable impact of its scholarship program on shaping the leaders of tomorrow.

In Belize, our government has placed the maritime industry at the heart of our national development strategy. A modern, resilient, and competitive maritime sector is essential to advancing trade, connectivity, and prosperity for our people. With the Government's recent acquisition of the Port of Belize Ltd., we are moving decisively to transform our national port into a modern facility that meets international standards. The planned Port Expansion Project in the Port Loyola Area of Belize City will deliver upgraded and expanded cargo operations, as well as a new cruise port with world-class ancillary facilities and amenities. These investments reflect our commitment to positioning Belize as a competitive hub for shipping, logistics, and tourism in the Caribbean.

Under the leadership of the Ministry of Public Utilities, Energy, and Logistics, and through the Belize Port Authority, we are advancing a National Maritime Transport Policy and a National Action Plan for Maritime Decarbonization to complement the National Ports Policy.

I extend special congratulations to this year's distinguished Honorees—Mr. Louis E. Sola and CMA CGM—for their outstanding contributions to the global and regional shipping industries.

On behalf of Belize, I sincerely thank the ACMF for its vision and dedication to uplifting our region through maritime education and development. I wish all attendees an enjoyable evening of celebration and fellowship.



Hon. John Briceño

Prime Minister of Belize





Tim Martin
President
Tropical Shipping



Message from the Gala Chair

Good Evening,

On behalf of the American Caribbean Maritime Foundation (ACMF), it is my distinct honor to welcome you to the 2025 Gala.

To the esteemed board members, generous supporters, academic partners and most importantly the dedicated students, thank you for joining us tonight. Your presence is the truest reflection of our shared commitment to transforming lives through maritime education.

This evening is a celebration of both the ACMF collective successes and the bright future of the Caribbean maritime industry. We gather not only to honor maritime visionaries, but also to raise critical funds that will empower the next generation of students through scholarships and essential educational resources.

Your unwavering support allows the ACMF to continue their vital work, opening doors of opportunity and creating a brighter tomorrow for young people across the Caribbean. Thank you for your belief in the ACMF's mission and for being a part of this inspiring night.

Message from the Gala Host

It is my great honour to welcome you to the American Caribbean Maritime Awards Annual Gala Fundraiser. This evening brings together leaders, innovators, and friends from across the maritime industry to celebrate excellence, strengthen connections, and raise critical support for the future of our region.

The maritime sector is not just an industry for us in the Caribbean—it is a lifeline. From the cargo that sustains our communities, to the cruise ships that connect us to the world and power our economies, our ports and waterways are central to our livelihoods and our growth. I have had the privilege of working on both sides of this dynamic industry, and I have seen how collaboration, resilience, and innovation shape a stronger tomorrow for The Bahamas and our neighbours across the region.

Tonight, as we recognize the outstanding contributions of our honourees, we are also reminded that the strength of our industry lies in people—the men and women who dedicate their lives to advancing maritime excellence. Through this fundraiser, we are investing in programs that will provide opportunities, training, and mentorship for the next generation of maritime leaders. In doing so, we ensure that the legacy of this vital industry continues to thrive for decades to come.

On behalf of the organizing committee, thank you for your generosity and support. May tonight's celebration inspire us all to continue working together to advance our industry and our Caribbean community.

Enjoy this remarkable evening.



Mike Maura, Jr.

Chairman
Arawak Port Development &
CEO Nassau Cruise Port





**Geneive Brown
Metzger, LLD Hon.**

**President and
Executive Director
American Caribbean
Maritime Foundation**



**American Caribbean
Maritime Foundation**

Message from the President

Dear Friends,

It is a joy to welcome you to another Anchor Awards Gala. Sincerest thanks to our Gala Chairman, Tim Martin, President of Tropical Shipping, who stands with us this year as Presenting Sponsor.

The shipping industry, including the Caribbean sector, is undergoing changes at a record pace and having you here with us sends a strong message of your commitment to the region's shipping industry, and to the next generation of Caribbean maritime professionals.

A special welcome to our Patron and Keynote Speaker, the Honorable Prime Minister of Belize, John Briceño, and to our distinguished honorees.

With investments in green fuel and AI-powered smart ports, alongside efforts to improve port infrastructure and digitalize customs processes to enhance efficiency, there will be increasing demand for a world-class cadre of industry professionals and with your support, we can ensure that Caribbean nationals have access to these opportunities.

This year, the ACMF awarded the largest number of scholarships and grants to one hundred twenty nine recipients from across the Caribbean— in any single year up to now—at a cost of almost half million US dollars. This is only possible with your generous support and vision, for which we are so very grateful.

The work continues, but this evening, we pause to celebrate the achievements of industry leaders, Louis Sola and CMA CGM.

Thank you all for coming; and enjoy the evening.

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At Carnival Corporation, we believe in the power of education to drive positive change. That's why we are a proud supporter of the American Caribbean Maritime Foundation (ACMF) and its vital work in maritime education and community development. As a leading global cruise company with deep ties to the Caribbean, we recognize the pivotal role the maritime and shipping industries play in the region's future.



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proudly congratulates the American Caribbean Maritime Foundation on its outstanding impact in advancing maritime education. We are honored to have supported your mission since 2021 and look forward to continuing this important journey together.



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Academic Partner



**Professor
Andrew Spencer**

President
Caribbean Maritime
University



Caribbean Maritime University

Across our region lies an extraordinary depth of talent — talent that, when nurtured, can transform industries, strengthen economies, and shape a more resilient maritime future. At the Caribbean Maritime University, we remain unwavering in our commitment to cultivating this potential, empowering our students to navigate and lead in a dynamic global landscape.

True potential, however, flourishes best within an ecosystem of collaboration. This is what makes our partnership with the American Caribbean Maritime Foundation so impactful. It reflects a shared belief that opportunity does not always lie beyond our shores — often, it exists right here at home, waiting to be discovered and developed. Together, we continue to build pathways that connect ambition with achievement and learning with leadership.

As we celebrate this year's honourees, let us be reminded that collaboration is our greatest strength. At CMU we say, "CMU Powerful. CMU Global." This time, we proudly extend that spirit to our partners "ACMF Powerful. ACMF Caribbean Strong."

Academic Partner

University of Trinidad and Tobago

The United Nations Agenda 2030 Sustainable Development Goal 17 emphasizes the importance of strengthening global partnerships for sustainable development through multi-stakeholder collaboration. In this spirit, as President (Ag.) of The University of Trinidad and Tobago (UTT), it is both an honour and a privilege to extend heartfelt gratitude to the American Caribbean Maritime Foundation (ACMF) for its steadfast commitment to advancing the maritime sector through strategic partnerships between people, industry, and academia.

We are deeply appreciative of the continued access to scholarships and grants made available to aspiring Caribbean maritime professionals – both seafaring and shore-based – as well as the strong support provided to Maritime Education and Training Institutions across the region.

At UTT Maritime Studies, we recognize the central role of the maritime sector in regional development and remain committed to ensuring that our curriculum, student engagement, and research agenda are aligned with the rapid transitions shaping the global maritime industry.

UTT is proud to host the Maritime Technology Cooperation Centre (MTCC) Caribbean, where several ACMF sponsors and partners have contributed significantly to research, technology transfer, and capacity-building initiatives.

We wish ACMF a successful Gala and may collaboration, innovation, and steadfast commitment pave the way for safer, cleaner, and more efficient maritime operations across the Caribbean.



**Professor
Rean Maharaj**

**President (Ag.)
University of Trinidad
and Tobago**



THE UNIVERSITY OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

Academic Partner



**Dr. Richard
Wiefelspuett**

President
LJM Maritime
Academy



LJM Maritime Academy

Celebrating Maritime Excellence in the Caribbean

The LJM Maritime Academy proudly joins the American Caribbean Maritime Foundation in celebrating the 2025 Anchor Awards Gala under the theme: “Talent in Your Backyard Caribbean: A Sea of Opportunity.”

We salute the Foundation’s dedication to expanding educational opportunities and transforming lives across our region. We also extend heartfelt congratulations to this year’s distinguished awardees whose leadership and commitment continue to inspire the next generation of maritime professionals.

At LJM Maritime Academy in Nassau, The Bahamas, we share this vision. Every cadet who walks through our doors embarks on a journey of transformation—gaining not only world-class maritime training but also the confidence and skills to strengthen families, communities, and the wider Caribbean.

Academic Partner

MATPAL Marine Institute Inc.

MATPAL Marine Institute Inc. has stood as a cornerstone of maritime education, training, and certification in Guyana. Renowned for its unwavering commitment to excellence, MATPAL has been instrumental in shaping the nation's maritime landscape, particularly through its flagship Marine Cadet Program, which is dedicated to producing highly competent Marine Deck and Engineering Officers.

A key pillar of this success has been MATPAL's enduring partnership with the American Caribbean Maritime Foundation (ACMF), whose sponsorship opportunities have opened doors for aspiring cadets. This collaboration has enabled students to undergo comprehensive training, guiding their transition into meaningful and impactful careers in the maritime and energy sectors.

The ACMF's continued support has been crucial in empowering MATPAL to identify, harness, and cultivate local talent—fueling the development of a robust and self-reliant maritime workforce.

Such initiatives underscore the transformative power of education and strategic investment in human capital. Together, MATPAL and the ACMF are not only charting a course toward individual success but are also contributing significantly to regional progress—anchoring a vision where potential is recognized, developed, and realized within our own borders.



Colleen Abrams
BSc, MBA, SHRM

Chief Executive Officer
MATPAL Marine
Institute Inc.



Academic Partner



**Miranda
Thakur-Deen**

**Executive Chairman
Atlantic Alliance Maritime &
Offshore Training Institute
Guyana, Inc.**



Atlantic Alliance Maritime & Offshore Training Institute

The Atlantic Alliance Maritime & Offshore Training Institute (AAMOTI) is the only International Maritime Organisation (IMO) Institution in Guyana. Accredited by the Maritime Authority of Jamaica (MAJ), our graduates are able to serve under all International flags.

AAMOTI proudly stands at the forefront, offering internationally recognized and value-based training for marine and offshore professionals. Our vision, as one of the key maritime education administrators in Guyana, aligns and resonates with the government's vision for the transformative role of education in building human capacity.

We take pride in fostering diversity and inclusion for women in Maritime, ensuring that our graduates are well-prepared to contribute to the nation's economic and industrial growth.

Investments in maritime education and capacity building represent a vital opportunity to enhance regional competitiveness and economic resilience. With the American Caribbean Maritime Foundation (ACMF) leading this charge for the Caribbean, collaborating with stakeholders such as AAMOTI is worth celebrating.

Academic Partner

Bethel and Associates

Bethel and Associates Marine Services and Training Institute is proud to stand at the forefront of maritime development in Grenada. As the only STCW-approved training provider recognized by the Grenada Port Authority / Grenada Maritime Administration, we remain committed to fostering world-class training, safety, and industry standards.

We uphold a vision to empower seafarers, both seasoned and aspiring, with the knowledge, skills, and certifications necessary to navigate successful careers at sea. Our services extend beyond training—offering professional marine inspections, audits, surveys, and consultancy that support sustainable maritime operations across the region.

As we continue to expand our reach, we are particularly proud of our partnership with the American Caribbean Maritime Foundation (ACMF), which allows us to offer life-changing opportunities throughout the tri-island state of Grenada, Carriacou, and Petite Martinique. Through these collaborations, we open doors for those who are passionate about the sea but face financial or academic barriers.

A recent milestone in our journey was an official visit by Mr. Roland Malins-Smith, Trustee of the American Caribbean Maritime Foundation (ACMF) to our training institute, who officially announced the sponsorship of ten Grenadian applicants to pursue their STCW certification through our institution. These applicants, already accepted by Princess Cruise Lines, were held back by financial limitations. This partnership ensures they now have the opportunity to launch their careers at sea.

As we continue to expand maritime education throughout Grenada, Carriacou, and Petite Martinique, we remain committed to our mission: to train, to guide, and to inspire.

We thank the organizers of the 2025 Anchor Awards for this platform and applaud their ongoing commitment to recognizing institutions and individuals dedicated to maritime excellence.



Captain
Theophilus Bethel

CEO/Founder
Bethel and Associates
Marine Services and
Training Institute





The Shipping Association of Barbados

Congratulates

The ACMF Anchor 2025 Awards Honorees

CMA CGM

Louis E. Sola

Senior Partner, Thorn Run, and Former Chairman, Federal Maritime Commission

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Message from the President of the Caribbean Shipping Association

The Caribbean Shipping Association is pleased to once again lend its support to the American Caribbean Maritime Foundation as it hosts the 2025 Anchor Awards under the theme “Talent in Our Backyard Caribbean: A Sea of Opportunity.”

For nearly a decade, the ACMF has transformed lives by providing scholarships, mentorship, and career opportunities for young men and women across our region. Its impact is seen in the hundreds of maritime professionals who now contribute to our ports, shipping lines, and wider logistics networks.

This year, we celebrate Commissioner Louis Sola for his consequential leadership in advancing maritime policy for Latin America and the Caribbean, and CMA CGM for its invaluable investment in the region’s shipping industry. Their achievements remind us of what vision, commitment, and partnership can accomplish.

The CSA proudly stands with the ACMF in building human capacity - the most vital investment for the Caribbean’s maritime future.



William Brown

President
Caribbean Shipping
Association



Honoree



Louis Sola

Partner, Thorn Run
Former Chairman,
Federal Maritime
Commission

Louis Sola brings nearly two decades of public and private sector leadership in transportation, trade, infrastructure, and maritime policy. He is a former Chairman and Commissioner of the U.S. Federal Maritime Commission and was nominated by two different U.S. Presidents. Sola was in the room for key decisions on U.S. tariff policy and played a central role in international trade and port modernization strategy.

In addition to his federal service, Sola previously served as a Florida State Commissioner, where he led initiatives on transportation, economic development, and infrastructure investment across the state. His work at both the state and federal level gives him a unique understanding of the regulatory landscape and the intersection of local and global commerce.

Sola is also a seasoned maritime entrepreneur. He is the founder of Evermarine, a leading yacht brokerage firm specializing in luxury vessels across the Americas.

At the FMC, he led major initiatives to stabilize supply chains, reduce port congestion, and strengthen U.S. competitiveness in global shipping markets. He earned bipartisan recognition for his crisis leadership during COVID-19 and oversaw critical reforms affecting ocean carriers, ports, and intermodal logistics providers.

A decorated and disabled U.S. Army veteran, Sola is fluent in Spanish and has deep expertise in Latin American markets, LNG infrastructure, and cargo and cruise industry development. His global network and cross-sector experience make him a trusted advisor to clients navigating complex regulatory and political environments. Sola holds a degree in Accounting and International Finance from the University of Illinois, providing a strong foundation in both fiscal policy and global market dynamics.

At Thorn Run, Sola advises clients across transportation, logistics, infrastructure, and international trade — delivering strategic outcomes at the highest levels of government and industry.

Honoree

CMA CGM Group stands as a global leader in multimodal transportation, embodying its corporate purpose to imagine better ways to serve a world in motion. Under the leadership of Rodolphe Saadé, this French multinational operates across 160 countries with a workforce of 160,000 employees, including 6,000 at its Marseille headquarters.

As the world's third-largest shipping company, CMA CGM maintains an impressive maritime presence with over 650 vessels serving more than 420 ports across five continents. In 2024 alone, the Group transported over 23 million TEUs, demonstrating its massive scale in global trade.

Beyond shipping, the Group has diversified into comprehensive logistics solutions through CEVA Logistics, which operates 1,000 warehouses worldwide and managed 15 million shipments in 2024. The air freight division, operating under CMA CGM AIR CARGO and Air Belgium, further strengthens its multimodal capabilities.

The Group's influence extends into media through CMA Media, France's third-largest private media group, encompassing RMC-BFM and prestigious publications like La Tribune and La Provence.

Committed to sustainability, CMA CGM targets Net Zero Carbon by 2050. The CMA CGM Foundation reinforces the Group's social responsibility, having delivered 63,000 tons of humanitarian aid to 97 countries and supported over 550 educational projects worldwide, promoting equal opportunities and global education.



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Commissioner Louis P. Sola
Senior Partner, Thorn Run

—and—

CMA CGM

Loretta and Roland Malins-Smith

Program

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HON. JOHN ANTONIO BRICEÑO , PRIME MINISTER, BELIZE

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CHAIRMAN, ARAWAK PORT DEVELOPMENT & CEO, NASSAU CRUISE PORT

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WELCOME

GALA CHAIRMAN MR. TIM MARTIN
PRESIDENT, TROPICAL SHIPPING
&
GENEIVE BROWN METZGER, LLD HON
PRESIDENT, AMERICAN CARIBBEAN MARITIME FOUNDATION

KEYNOTE

HON. JOHN ANTONIO BRICEÑO, PRIME MINISTER, BELIZE

TRIBUTE TO THE HONOREES

MR. LOUIS SOLA, SENIOR PARTNER, THORN RUN
INTRODUCED BY MR. GIORA ISRAEL, PRINCIPAL, GIORA ISRAEL LLC AND ACMF TRUSTEE

CMA CGM

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ACMF 2025 ANCHOR AWARDS

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Charting a Course for the Future: Carnival Corporation's Landmark Alliance with Caribbean Maritime University



More than two years after its launch, the strategic partnership between Carnival Corporation and the Caribbean Maritime University (CMU) continues to deliver on its promise to develop the region's maritime talent.

Formalized by a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed in 2023, this alliance was designed to bridge the gap between academic training and real-world industry experience. It provides students with clear pathways to fulfilling maritime careers across all Carnival Corporation cruise lines.

The most critical component of this agree-

ment addresses one of the perennial challenges for maritime students: the requirement of mandatory "sea time" to earn the certificate of competence. Over the next three years, the partnership guarantees that a number of CMU students will gain essential at-sea training aboard Carnival Corporation vessels. This commitment ensures a minimum number of placements per year, representing a direct investment in the success of the Caribbean's next generation of marine and logistics professionals.

This partnership extends beyond place-

ments. Together, Carnival Corporation and CMU are creating a comprehensive system for human capital development that benefits students and Carnival Corporation's operations. The long-term goal is for CMU graduates to gain employment across the entire Carnival Corporation fleet, in both deck and engine roles, as well as hotel operations.

This holistic approach is already becoming a reality. More than 10 CMU students and graduates have secured employment or contracts on board.

Education and familiarization also serve as cornerstones of the alliance. Carnival Corporation sends its employees and potential recruits to CMU for customized training that aligns with the Carnival way. Conversely, hundreds of CMU students specializing in Marine Transportation, Marine Engineering and Logistics have benefitted from in-depth ship visits when Carnival Corporation vessels call on Jamaican ports.



These ship visits function as immersive educational sessions. Students receive briefings from senior officers, including the captain, chief engineer, hotel director and environmental officer, gaining crucial exposure to every aspect of ship operations. They observe bridge navigation, systems management in engine control rooms, guest services coordination and even corporate social responsibility practices.

The collaboration will also include scholarships and the exploration of upgrading CMU's bridge simulator to enhance training capacity. Together, these initiatives underscore Carnival Corporation's dedication to developing a

skilled, regionally-sourced workforce ready to lead the future of global cruising and shipping.

The partnership with the Caribbean Maritime University is more than a commercial agreement. It is a long-term investment in the economic empowerment and professional development of the Caribbean region.





American Caribbean
Maritime Foundation



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We congratulate Geneive Brown Metzger, Fern Kahn, Emerson Alleyne, and all the Board of Directors on a successful 2025!

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Menu

Cocktails & Amuse Bouche on the Veranda

Mervyn Johnston Trio

Johnkanoo by Island Groove

Dinner

Mesclun Greens

Grilled Filet Mignon
and Fresh Crab Cakes

Grilled Pencil Asparagus
and Garlic Smashed Potatoes

Fresh Rolls and Sweet Butter

Dessert

Key Lime Pie with Mango Sauce

Coffee and Tea

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In academic year 2025/2026, ACMF made its largest scholarship and grant award (\$497,000) in its eight-year history to one hundred and twenty-nine recipients bringing the total expenditure since the inception of its scholarship program in 2018 to \$2.9MUS. Thank you, Partners. This is possible only with your support.

Academic Year 2025/2026 Awardees

Caribbean Maritime University (JAMAICA)

Onage Bailey

ACMF Hugh Mulzac Scholarship

Emily Bain

ACMF Royal Caribbean Group Scholar

Daniel Baker

ACMF Fern Khan Grant

Pert Hem Heri Bakhushek

ACMF Fern Khan Grant

Amelia Beckford

ACMF MSC Scholarship

Shanice Beckford

ACMF MSC Scholarship

Deondra Beckford

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