



**Perry Corp aboard
Oliver Hazard Perry**



OLIVER HAZARD PERRY RHODE ISLAND NAMED SAIL TRAINING PROGRAM OF THE YEAR

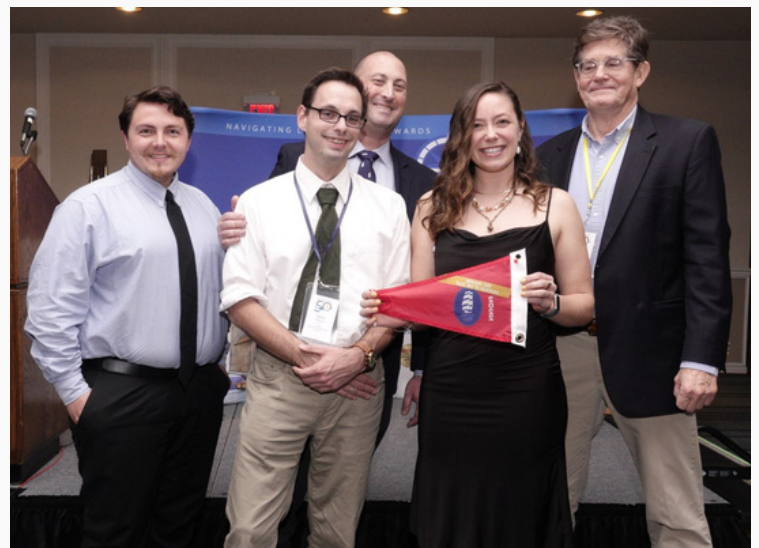
Newport, RI (February 13th, 2023)- Nearly 200 delegates gathered together last week at the Newport Marriott for Tall Ships America's 50th Annual Conference on Sail Training and Sea Education. Capping three days of networking, and professional development for operators, administrators and sail crew, local organization Oliver Hazard Perry Rhode Island (OHPRI) was honored when their Perry Corps program was named Sail Training and Sea Education Program of the Year for 2022 at the annual awards banquet.

Comprising a series of programmatic experiences aboard Rhode Island's Flagship, the SSV OLIVER HAZARD PERRY, the Perry Corps seeks to provide participants of all ages with empowering experiences connected to the sea, and in turn link them to broader opportunities in the Blue Economy, particularly the Maritime Industry and Marine Trades. "The Perry Corps is a model for our fleet about how to make direct connections between sail training, traditional academic content such as science and math, and its real-world application creating options for work in the future," said Dr. Kris Von Wald, Executive Director of Tall Ships America. "They are at the forefront of sail training and sea education and well deserve this award."

"Being acknowledged by our peers at the national level is validation of our efforts to redefine ourselves as an agent of empowerment for our community here in the Ocean State and beyond," said Captain Jonathan Kabak, CEO of OHPRI, "and to have brought these programs from inception to a place that they are being recognized as exemplary over the last four years is awe inspiring."

The Perry Corps curriculum is heavily oriented on vessel familiarization and operations. Through subjects such as navigation and skills like painting the hull, students engage in academic concepts such as algebra and chemistry. Put simply, the Perry Corps trains for the sea and trains through the sea.

In addition to Program of the Year, OHPRI co-founder Bart Dunbar was presented with the Tall Ships America Lifetime Achievement Award. "Having the opportunity to honor a true legend of sail training, in his hometown, on such a special night for OHPRI was incredible," said Kabak.



FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE PERRY CORPS OR THE FULL RANGE OF OLIVER HAZARD PERRY RHODE ISLAND PROGRAMMING PLEASE VISIT WWW.OHPRI.ORG OR EMAIL INFO@OHPRI.ORG