

Bates Technical College builds boatbuilders

Boatbuilding instructor Chuck Graydon of Bates Technical College sent these photos of some projects that his students have been working on using WEST SYSTEM® epoxy.

Bates Technical College is located in Tacoma, Washington. They offer several boatbuilding and repair programs designed to prepare students for apprentice-level employment in the boat building industry and ultimately fill positions in shipyards, marinas, and private boat building companies.

Their students obtain experience through extensive hands-on training in the construction of wood and fiberglass boats and are prepared for employment as aluminum fabricators, fiberglass laminators, wood and fiberglass tool makers, joiners, and marine carpenters. The program also provides extended learning opportunities for persons previously or currently employed in the industry.

They offer an Associate of Technology Degree and Certificates of Competency that cover basic boat building design and con-



struction, and either fiberglass boat building and repair or wood/composite boat building.

Shorter programs are available that target the specific training areas of basic boat building design and construction, fiberglass boat building and repair or wood/composite boat building. And, they offer continuing education classes, providing individual evening courses to cover specific topics related to boat building.

Graydon says students enjoy the versatility of being able to use appropriate hardeners for different situations, and various fillers and thickening agents mixed to customize to the project. "Our students have come to rely on the predictability and consistency of results they get for any number of applications on a daily basis."

Visit www.bates.ctc.edu/boatbuilding for more details. —MB ■

Instructor Chuck Graydon tells us the finest looking recently completed project using WEST SYSTEM epoxies must be the 9' hollow, strip-built surfboard that student James Hibray crafted. He did a first-class job on the glassing and finishing.



Aaron Gnirk show off the stitch and glue kayaks he's built . It's the students own design, using 3 mm and 6 mm plywood encapsulated with WEST SYSTEM epoxy and 6 oz fiberglass cloth.



One of the students is building a plywood hulled hydrofoil, with high density foam and WEST SYSTEM epoxy and fiberglass composite struts and wings.



Their vacuum-infusion project is still in the tooling stages. Shawn Hanna fairs the hull plug—a labor intensive job and a tough one to get the students to focus on.