



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**PORT OF CLEVELAND ANNOUNCES \$40,000 DONATION TO SUPPORT  
PHASTAR MARINE SAFETY & YOUTH EDUCATION PROGRAMS**

**Cleveland, Ohio** – The Port of Cleveland announces the contribution of \$40,000 to PHASTAR Corporation, a 501c3 nonprofit, for its Marine Safety and youth education programs that benefit the students of Davis Aerospace and Maritime High School (Davis A&M) and the local community.

PHASTAR continues to develop innovative new programs to support Davis A&M and Cleveland’s maritime industry. PHASTAR Marine Safety operates in the Cuyahoga River and on our Lakefront. The primary vessel, PHASTAR 2543, is a 2005 SafeBoat RB-S equipped for Basic and Advanced Life Support, Water Rescue, and towing assistance. The boat is staffed with a USCG Captain, EMT/Medic, Rescue Swimmer/Lifeguard and deck crew. PHASTAR provides commercial vessel escorts, special event safety planning and support, safety audits and routine safety patrol. This program provides a unique opportunity for students at Davis A&M to be actively engaged in community service, working with public safety professionals, gaining valuable experience and sea time for maritime careers and improving their communications skills when interacting with commercial and recreational boaters. Students serve the roles of deck crew and lifeguards, as they are qualified.

“The Port of Cleveland is proud to partner with PHASTAR in their efforts to bring maritime educational and vocational opportunities to Northeast Ohio youth, said Port of Cleveland President and CEO, Will Friedman; “The maritime industry has numerous career opportunities within the Great Lakes and beyond, thus, this is critical investment in the future workforce of scientist, engineers, pilots, technicians, labor and etc.. We look forward to the development of our partnership.”

The Port of Cleveland’s support of PHASTAR’s Marine Safety program is vital, and the \$40,000 investment will improve safety, enhance public image of the Port and provide marine/maritime workforce training for our next generation. The funding provided will go toward student wages (deck hands at \$10/hour and lifeguards at \$12/hour), maintenance and fuel.

“The support from the Port of Cleveland is critical,” said PHASTAR President Drew Ferguson; “The support is more than just a monetary contribution, but also an endorsement of the efforts by PHASTAR and our community partners.”

Based upon academic trends from U.S. secondary schools specializing in aerospace or maritime, it is anticipated that at least 25% to 30% of Davis A&M students will pursue careers in the aerospace or maritime industry. Currently, PHASTAR anticipates the majority of its students pursuing post-secondary education and training, with the majority of the remaining students directly pursuing local careers in the aerospace or maritime industries upon graduation from Davis A&M.



The Port of Cleveland's support of this programming will be recognized with the placement of a vinyl Port of Cleveland decal on both sides of the vessel.

**About Cleveland-Cuyahoga County Port Authority:**

*The Port of Cleveland is one of the largest ports on the Great Lakes. Over 20,000 jobs and \$3.5 billion in annual economic activity are tied to the roughly 13 million tons of cargo that move through Cleveland Harbor each year. The Port of Cleveland is the only local government agency whose sole mission is to spur job creation and economic vitality in Cuyahoga County. The Port is an economic engine for the community, a key to Northeast Ohio's global competitiveness, and a crucial partner in building Cuyahoga County's future.*

For more information, please visit: [www.portofcleveland.com](http://www.portofcleveland.com)

**About PHASTAR Corp.:**

*PHASTAR Corp. is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization that currently includes three areas of operation: Education, Aerospace and Maritime. PHASTAR was born in 2010 out of a vision to improve the quality of education and public services in Northeast Ohio. Through a combined business/education model, PHASTAR is able to offer unique life experiences and learning and training opportunities to high school and technical education students and adults seeking to learn new skills. This model affords the chance to not only improve the efficiency and scope of local industry and public services, but also helps to arm local students and adults with the tools to break the cycle of poverty and achieve self-sufficiency. PHASTAR also partners with government, higher education and industry to develop technical training and education initiatives that deliver 21<sup>st</sup> century job skills and services that support the needs of the Northeast Ohio community. PHASTAR is co-founder of Davis Aerospace and Maritime High School, a Cleveland Metropolitan School District high school featuring aerospace and maritime-themed curriculum. For more information about PHASTAR, visit [www.phastar.org](http://www.phastar.org). For more information about Davis A&M, please visit [www.davisam.org](http://www.davisam.org).*

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