



## American Sail Training Association

240 Thames St. - PO Box 1459  
Newport, Rhode Island 02840 USA  
p: 401.846.1775 • f: 401.849.5400  
[www.tallships.sailtraining.org](http://www.tallships.sailtraining.org)



For immediate release

Thursday, June 15, 2006

For information, text or accompanying image via e-mail, contact:

Peter A. Mello, ASTA Executive Director

p: 401-846-1775; e: [peter@sailtraining.org](mailto:peter@sailtraining.org)

### **American Sail Training Association to Receive over \$200,000 to Help Young People**

WASHINGTON - The U.S. Department of Justice's (DOJ) Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) informed U.S. Senator Jack Reed (D-RI) and U.S. Representative Patrick Kennedy (D-RI) that the American Sail Training Association of Newport will receive \$246,807 to expand its successful programs for at-risk youth.

The American Sail Training Association (ASTA) is a nonprofit organization that represents nearly 300 tall ships, sail training organizations, and schools in more than 25 states.

ASTA offers programs to urban and disadvantaged youth to build character, foster teamwork, and develop leadership qualities, by connecting students' academic lessons to real life experiences while learning how to sail.

Reed and Kennedy worked to secure funding for the program in fiscal year 2006.

Reed stated, "The American Sail Training Association's programs in Rhode Island and elsewhere across the country allow young people who otherwise may not have the opportunity to participate in sailing and learn and develop key skills such as leadership and teamwork. This federal funding will help ASTA to reach more children and provide them with experiences and resources that they can use the rest of their lives."

Kennedy stated, "It's so important to create a learning atmosphere that inspires a child to reach beyond their limits. ASTA utilizes hands on experience to get youth engaged in educational programs that incorporate character building and life skills. I am so pleased that this funding will be used to help support such important work that is making a difference in the lives of so many and I can't think of a better classroom than Narragansett Bay."

Federal funding will be used to expand ASTA's scholarship and grant programs to make after school and out of school programs more accessible and affordable to young people in Rhode Island and other states. The DOJ's OJJDP provides grants to organizations to help keep juveniles out of the justice system include tutoring, mentoring, recreational activities and leadership development activities.

Peter A. Mello, ASTA Executive Director stated, "This funding marks a significant milestone in ASTA's history. We are excited by the opportunities it creates and we look forward to working with OJJDP in providing more life changing sail training experiences for American youth. We are grateful for Senator Reed's and Congressman Kennedy's support and leadership of this initiative."

The American Sail Training Association (ASTA) is a 501 (c) (3) nonprofit organization founded in 1973, located in Newport, RI and focused on youth experiential education, leadership development and maritime heritage preservation. ASTA's mission is *to encourage character building through sail training, promote sail training to the North American public and support education under sail*. The American Sail Training Association is a founding member of Sail Training International, LTD UK.

- END-