



NEWS

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CONTACT: CLARA POTES-FELLOW/JIM SMART
MTA PRESS RELATIONS
(213)244-6566/244-6347
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MTA, LAUSD TARGET THREE LOCAL HIGH SCHOOLS AS SITES FOR TRANSPORTATION CAREER ACADEMIES

The MTA and the Los Angeles Unified School District have selected Wilson, Locke and North Hollywood high schools as sites for academies that will offer training in transportation trades and professions to some 600 students each year.

Beginning in 1995, the three high schools will offer courses in engineering, architecture and design, and urban planning to students interested in transportation-oriented careers.

The transportation career academies will be financed through a three-year \$4 million grant that combines matching \$2 million grants from the Federal Transit Administration and the Los Angeles County MTA, and a four-year \$1.4 million grant from the U.S. Department of Education. The money will be used for the development of specialized courses, teacher preparation and equipment, scholarships and internships.

"This program will train a new generation of young people here in Los Angeles to assume responsibility for completing and operating the transportation network," said L.A. City Councilman Richard Alatorre, chairman of the MTA.

The career academy program is an expansion of the MTA's successful Transportation Occupation Program (TOP) that currently involves about 150 students at 17 area high schools. TOP students attend classes in transportation subjects and work as interns in real-world situations with the MTA, area transportation, public works agencies and MTA contractors.

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"High school graduates from transportation academies have the option to immediately qualify for entry-level positions in the transportation industry or continue in transportation studies at a junior college or university," said Franklin White, MTA chief executive officer.

Like the TOP program, the career academies will draw upon industry for resources through the formation of a consortium of transportation related agencies and businesses. This support will include scholarships and jobs programs for inner-city youngsters, industry mentors and tutors from participating colleges who will help ensure the student's progress.

"The Transportation Career Academies are an excellent example of how industry links with education," said Sid Thompson, Superintendent, Los Angeles Unified School District. "These academies will facilitate the transition from school to work."

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