



NEWS

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MTA REACHES OUT AT VENDOR FAIR

The MTA's second annual Vendor Fair -- the largest public agency trade fair in California -- will be held Tuesday, June 14, at the Los Angeles Convention Center. It is the agency's major community outreach of the year, and includes workshops for minority/women/disadvantaged business enterprises (M/W/DBE) and transportation internships.

"Our internship program, under the auspices of the Transportation Foundation, is a great opportunity for engineering students to get work experience in the growing transportation industry," said MTA Chairman and Los Angeles City Councilman Richard Alatorre. "The Foundation has raised money for 50 internships, and our workshop at the Vendor Fair will explain the program and cover the latest developments and opportunities in transportation," he said.

The internships are conducted with cooperating companies, which agree to mentor third- and fourth-year college, and second-year community college, students. Once placed, the student may work full or part time up to a maximum of 1,000 hours. Wage cost to the company is \$5 per hour, which is matched by the Transportation Foundation.

"It's an outstanding program," said MTA CEO Franklin White. "We're providing the transportation industry with fresh, new talent while meeting the educational and work-related goals of our interns."

Active encouragement of D/W/MBE is another aspect of the Vendor Fair's community outreach. Workshops on certification will explain the steps that must be taken for recognition as a D/W/MBE. Other workshops explain how to access capital, and how to develop a winning proposal.

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"MTA's goal for disadvantaged, women and minority business participation averages 27 percent for all contracts," said MTA Director and L.A. County Supervisor Yvonne Brathwaite Burke, who will perform the ceremonial ribbon cutting officially opening the Vendor Fair. "We want to keep these contracts -- and the jobs they produce -- in the local area," she said.

For additional information, call the Vendor Fair Hotline at (213) 244-6871. Tickets are \$10, and include admission to all workshops.

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