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**NORTH HOLLYWOOD HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS TO PARTICIPATE IN MTA
"CAREER DAY" AS PART OF TRANSPORTATION CAREERS ACADEMY PROGRAM**

Nearly 70 students from North Hollywood High School in North Hollywood will visit MTA headquarters for a day Wednesday, April 26, to learn about various facets of the public transportation industry as part of MTA's Transportation Careers Academy Program.

The Academy is a "school within a school" program jointly sponsored by the MTA and the Los Angeles Unified School District that targets high school students interested in transportation-related careers, including urban planning, architecture, engineering and other trades applicable to the industry.

"Our high school students are the transportation planners of the future," said MTA Chief Executive Officer Franklin E. White. "I am pleased that our Transportation Careers Academy program provides bright young people the opportunity to join us for a day to see for themselves the exciting work we're involved in."

Among the North Hollywood High School students to visit the MTA will be Jennifer Luna and Otto Cartagena, both eleventh graders and North Hollywood residents.

"I hope to learn how MTA's systems work and the issues MTA people have to take care of," Luna said. "I'm going to go to college, then get a job in broadcasting or commercial-making."

"The Transportation Careers Academy program has been a good start to learn about the real world," said Cartagena. "What I'd like most is to work with

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computers. My hope is that MTA can teach me the way they use their computers to control every train and bus."

The program is open to all students from participating high schools who meet attendance and academic performance requirements, said Naomi Nightingale, the program's director for MTA.

"The partnership we have with the schools creates opportunities and learning environments for students to understand the relevance of education to career goals and job preparation," Nightingale said. "It provides excellent preparation for those wanting to go on to community colleges or universities for further studies, or even to entry level jobs in the transportation industry."

The TCA program is fully funded by grants and matched funding from the MTA, the U.S. Federal Transit Administration, the Office of Civil Rights, the U.S. Department of Education, and the Office of Vocational and Adult Education, in cooperation with the L.A. Unified School District.

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