

TCAP Program Needs Transportation Pros to Mentor Students at North Hollywood High

(March 2) There are 85 juniors at North Hollywood High School who need help from MTA employees. They're TCAP students. And, beginning in April, each one should have a transportation professional as a mentor.

There aren't enough mentors to go around just now, says Holly Balderas, the LAUSD liaison at the MTA. She's looking for volunteers to coach individuals or small teams of TCAP students through the end of June and during their senior year.

One-to-one relationship

"We like to have a one-to-one relationship," she says. "That's what we're shooting for." Mentor volunteers will have an opportunity to meet their assigned students, April 12, during the MTA's TCAP Career Day.

The Transportation Careers Academy Program at North Hollywood High focuses on urban planning. The students work on projects related to transportation and environmental planning, as well as technology-based projects involving computer-aided design and the Internet.

The time mentors spend with their assigned students is flexible, says Balderas, although volunteers should expect to visit the school at least once or twice during the year. Students also communicate with their mentors by phone and Internet e-mail.

1,800 participated in four years

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MTA Bolsters Students' Opportunities

About 600 students from five high schools - Locke, Woodrow Wilson, Franklin and North Hollywood of LAUSD and John Glenn of the Norwalk-La Mirada School District - are enrolled in the MTA's TCAP program every year. In the past four years, some 1,800 students have participated in the program.

"The purpose of the MTA's mentoring program is to provide guidance to students who are interested in transportation-related careers," says Balderas. "We also strongly encourage the students to pursue post-secondary education in a college or university."

For more information about volunteering for the TCAP mentoring program, contact Holly Balderas at 922-5260 or Benita Horn at 922-5252.

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