



BACK TO SCHOOL - Suitland High School staff traveled from Maryland for training seminar on MTA's Transportation Careers Academy Program. Pictured are, back row, from left, Tyron Tarlton, Technology Instructor, Suitland High School; Commander Sally Holloway, Liaison, U.S. Department of Transportation; James Ganter, Social Studies Instructor, Suitland High School; Rachel Mitchell, Counselor, Suitland High School; Thomas Tuthill, Vice Principal, Suitland High School. Front row, from left, Naomi Nightingale, Director, Human Resources; Thelma Merchant, Chemistry Instructor, Suitland High School; Holly Balderas, Senior Development and Training Specialist; Human Resources Development and Training.

U.S. Department Of Transportation Recognizes TCAP As A National Model

By HOLLY BALDERAS

(May 11, 2001) The MTA's Transportation Careers Academy Program (TCAP) has once again been cited as a national model for preparing future workers for the transportation industry's fast-emerging careers.

At the request of the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT), the MTA recently hosted a two-day training seminar for their representative and for the staff of Suitland High School in Prince Georges County, Md.

This intensive training provided technical assistance to Suitland High School and USDOT on how to replicate the MTA's TCAP model. In partnership with the USDOT, Suitland High School plans to open its doors in September 2002, to a new School of Transportation, based on the MTA's program.

The MTA's Human Resources Development and Training Department developed and conducted the training seminar.

Technical assistance sessions focused on TCAP's developmental history, its unique instructional design and industry-based components, samples of materials developed and details of the many lessons learned over the years.

Panel discussed mentoring

A panel of experienced TCAP participants discussed mentoring students, supervising student interns and the numerous coordination aspects of an Academy.

The panel included Rick Owens, Regional Transportation Planning and Development; Yvette Robles, Government Relations; B.J. Moore, TCAP Coordinator from Locke High School; and Wendy Granados, TCAP student from Locke High School.

The team from USDOT and Suitland High spent 4 to 5 hours on the front line – conducting site visits to TCAP schools, sitting in on classes and meeting with teachers and students.

This isn't the first time MTA has been asked to help other agencies and schools replicate its successful TCAP model. Over the past years, organizations in Seattle and Washington D.C. have made site visits. The MTA also has conducted numerous technical assistance workshops across the nation.

Initiated by MTA in 1993, TCAP is a 'school-within-a-school' that integrates transportation-related technical skills into traditional high school academic subjects.

Students receive excellent preparation for advanced studies because they benefit from the guidance and instruction of Academy teachers working side-by-side with industry professionals.

TCAP students learn in a 'real-world' environment in the career areas of urban planning, engineering, architecture and transportation technologies.

For further information about TCAP contact Benita Horn at 922-5252 or Holly Balderas at 922-5260.

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