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MTA Honor Roll 2003 On Friday, *metro.net* will post MTA Honor Roll, a listing of more than 160 employees, their children or grandchildren who graduated this year from high school, trade school or college. It's the most comprehensive listing of graduates yet! Copies of MTA Honor Roll also will be distributed both at MTA Headquarters and at the operating divisions. Don't miss it!



MTA Sisters Find Success While Attending College Together

By ADRIENNE FIGUEROA

(June 26, 2003) Three years ago, Rachel Bird and her sister, Regina – both MTA transportation operations supervisors – devised a plan on how to finish college. They would attend the same school with the same major at the same time.

After countless hours of toiling over term papers and exams, the sisters will graduate Cal State Dominguez Hills, this summer, with Bachelor of Science degrees in public administration.



Sisters Regina Bird, left, and Rachel Bird graduate this summer with Bachelor of Science degrees in public administration. Both are transportation operations supervisors at MTA.

"We figured if we did it together, we could get more support from one another," says Rachel, a TOS at Arthur Winston Division 5.

The sisters took about 90 percent of their courses together, yielding beneficial results in their academics.

"Studying with Rachel helped big time," says Regina, a TOS in Bus Operations Control.

3.0 grade point average

Regina was able to maintain a 3.0 grade point average and landed a place on the National Dean's List. Rachel became an honor student with Alpha Gamma Sigma. Both sisters also received achievement awards from the Public Administration Alumni Society, Pi Alpha Alpha.

Although Rachel's success reflects a great deal of dedication, she was

not always interested in being a student. She remembers a period of time after high school when attending college was a decision she was not ready to make.

"I knew I should have gone to school, but the discipline wasn't there," she says. "Being younger, I didn't see the importance of an education."

Regina also shared Rachel's views on college following her high school experience.

"At 18 or 19 years old, I didn't appreciate college," Regina says. "Education has always been important to me, but it was just a matter of sticking to it."

Looking back, Rachel and Regina are happy with the choice they made.

"Now I have a feeling of accomplishment," Rachel says.

Both sisters would like to advance within MTA and use their knowledge of public administration to open a non-profit organization for children.

Rachel aspires to continue her studies and get a master's degree in public administration. Regina plans to spend more time with her two daughters.

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