

## 35 Procurement Staffers Celebrate Completion of UCLA Courses



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By LISA HUYNH

(Nov. 19, 2003) Thirty-five members of MTA's Procurement staff participated in formal graduation ceremonies, Nov. 14, marking completion of a two-year certification program sponsored by UCLA.

Graduates received certificates of completion in either the Purchasing and Materiel Management Program or the Government Contract Management Program. Both programs were conducted on-site at MTA from August 2001 to September 2003.

"The caliber of the individuals in the program that I was involved with, had the highest level of professionalism and integrity that I've ever experienced," UCLA Instructor Robert New told the graduates. "This was a huge commitment on behalf of MTA and the graduates. I was honored to be part of this program."

Ted Montoya, deputy executive officer, Material Management, and a graduate of both programs, was master of ceremonies at a luncheon celebrating the graduates' hard work and dedication.

Ed Velasquez, a vice president of the National Contract Management Association, presented a letter of recognition to the graduates from NCMA National President Gary Zura. Graduation speakers included Lonnie Mitchell, executive officer, Procurement.

In addition to Montoya, Buyer Frank Clarke of Purchasing also completed both UCLA programs. Graduates committed themselves to participate in weekly classes, completing eight 12-week courses over the two-year period.

Senior Contract Administrator Vimol Katkaphan, who was one of 35 graduates, coordinated the graduation ceremony.

"I think it's an excellent program," said Katkaphan. "It's a great opportunity to grow with the company. What better way to develop your career than here at MTA?"

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