

[Metro.net](#) (web)**Resources**▶ [Safety](#)▶ [Pressroom](#) (web)▶ [CEO Hotline](#)▶ [Metro Projects](#)▶ [Facts at a Glance](#)
(web)▶ [Archives](#)▶ [Events Calendar](#)▶ [Research Center/
Library](#)▶ [Metro Cafe](#) (pdf)▶ [Metro Classifieds](#)▶ [Retirement
Round-up](#)**Metro Info**▶ [Strategic Plan](#) (pdf)▶ [Org Chart](#) (pdf)▶ [Policies](#)▶ [Training](#)▶ [Help Desk](#)▶ [Intranet Policy](#)**Need e-Help?**Call the Help Desk
at 2-4357[E-Mail Webmaster](#)

A Rewarding Hour Mentoring High School Students

By RICH MORALLO

(Feb. 20, 2004) Members of MTA's staff spent their lunch hour, recently, helping high school students connect school to the workplace.

"I'm here at Franklin High School so I can show students what choices they have after graduation," said Angela Pina, a document control specialist and one of several Metro professionals who volunteered to be a TCAP (Transportation Careers Academy Program) mentor at the school.

TCAP, a three-year program in technology and transportation, provides course work that emphasizes teamwork, problem-solving and lifetime learning. In preparation for the workplace and a four-year university, academy students also meet with local professionals and experience various business environments.

Pina and four other Metro employees visited Franklin High to be matched up with students and to discuss careers, plans, ambitions and the students' future.

Transportation Planning Manager Jeff Boberg was paired with Oscar Montano, a junior. They spent an hour breaking the ice and chatting about sports, hobbies, grades, travel and families.

'Mentoring is very rewarding'

"This is a great program," said Boberg, who became a mentor three years ago after another Metro staff member recruited him. "Getting to know the students and mentoring them is very rewarding."

In the school's technology room, several other mentors, including Metro's Paula Carvajal, Jess Godinez and Yolanda Rosales, conversed with their partners.

Juniors Victor Figueroa and Sam Lopez already had an idea of what their futures held for them.

PHOTOS BY RICH MORALLO



MTA staffers Angela Pina and Jess Godinez at Franklin High School, just down the street from the Metro Gold Line tracks. Below, Franklin High students Victor Figueroa, left, and Sam Lopez are interested in careers in film.



"We're both interested in film," they said, describing how they once started producing a short film on why students should read "Catcher in the Rye."

Near them, Herlinda Tamayo, Pina's student partner, also shared her dream. "I'm taking nursing in college," she said.

The sound of mentoring resonated throughout the room as workforce professionals talked and students listened. Then, students talked while their mentors listened.

| [Home](#) | [Phone Directory](#) | [Forms Online](#) | [FIS Online](#)