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- ▶ Safety
- ▶ Pressroom (web)
- ▶ CEO Hotline
- ▶ Metro Projects
- ▶ Facts at a Glance
- ▶ Archives
- ▶ Events Calendar
- ▶ Research Center/ Library
- ▶ Metro Cafe (pdf)
- Metro Classifieds
- ▶ Retirement Round-up

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- Strategic Plan (pdf)
- Org Chart (pdf)
- ▶ Policies
- ▶ Training
- ▶ Help Desk
- ▶ Intranet Policy

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See Their Lessons Applied at RRC

Automotive Students

photos by bill heard

(April 30, 2004) Twenty-eight automotive students toured Metro's Regional Rebuild Center, Thursday, and discovered that the lessons they're learning at Pasadena City College have an everyday, practical application.

The majority are studying transmissions - both automatic and manual - just now, says their instructor, Wayne Houlihan. But, they also can specialize in engine repair, brakes and suspensions, air conditioning and other areas.

Many enroll at the school for a year, earn a specialty certificate and go right to work in a local repair shop or auto dealership. Some stay for a full two-year course and learn the mechanics of a vehicle from "end to end," says Houlihan. Several graduates now work for Metro.

At the RRC, the students toured the welding shop, machine shop, paint shop and other areas that help support as many as 5,000 buses.

"When you're in the classroom



Alberto Hinojos II, at left, and equipment maintenance supervisor Bill Dellosa, at right, examines metal cut on a plasma cutter by welder Jeff Barton. Below, PCC students study RRC's engine dynamometer analysis of bus engines under loads.

listening to a lecture, you can only imagine how you would apply that in the field," says Mike Singer, equipment maintenance manager. "Here, they're getting a first-hand experience."

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