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Carson Division Hosts 'Apprentices For a Day'

By RICH MORALLO

(June 18, 2004) They came. They saw. And they apprenticed at Metro.

Eight students from Washington Preparatory High School participated in an "Apprentice For A Day" program, recently, when they journeyed to Carson Division 18 to learn about working for Metro.

Metro's Shauneice Milton, a 1987 graduate of Washington High, helped welcome the students.

"Seeing the youngsters brought back great memories of my high school," said Milton, a Workers' Compensation supervisor.

Starting their day at the 290-bus division, the apprentices toured the bus yard, rode through the bus wash, and heard presentations on the history of Metro and of Los Angeles transportation.

Supervisors also talked about management duties and concepts, Worker's Compensation and safety priorities.

The students took notes on the maintenance side of the facility as Manager Ken Matsuno described how mechanics spend their day keeping the vehicles primed and ready, and the way service attendants tackle graffiti and remove gum from the coaches.

"Today was very interesting," said Cindy, an 11th grader. "I thought Metro just had people who drove buses. But there are different positions here. And I also learned that the operators are trained on how to deal with 'attitude' from some riders."

Capping the day at the Metro South Bay division was a skit by General Manager Dana Coffey and Senior Human Relations Analyst Jeannette Bell.

Playing the role of a Metro job applicant, Coffey showed the students both the right and wrong way to prepare for an employment interview.

PHOTOS: RICH MORALLO



Carson Division 18's Jimi Greene (at head of table) tells the apprentices about the day of a Metro operator. Below, Senior Human Relations Analyst Jeanette Bell provides apprentices tips on preparing for employment interviews.



"I learned that we can be anything we want to be," said Kevin, a freshman at Washington. "We shouldn't let anything hold us back as we strive for the best."

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