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The Transportation Leadership Academy (TLA) Class of 2004 included 26 graduates. Leaders Holly Balderas, center foreground, and OD&T Director Maron Colston, at right, joined the graduates for this photo. [List of graduates.](#)



PHOTOS: GAYLE ANDERSON

## 26 Employees Graduate from Transportation Leadership Academy

By HOLLY BALDERAS and MARION COLSTON

(Dec. 17, 2004) The Transportation Leadership Academy (TLA) Class of 2004 has graduated.

Twenty-six Metro employees committed the last three months to developing their leadership talents. TLA participants attended seven full day sessions that were held off site and facilitated by internal Organizational Development and Training (OD&T) staff.

TLA instruction included tools and resources on leadership strategies, motivation, leading teams, strategic execution and managing change.

TLA is designed for those Metro leaders who are recognized as agents of change. TLA offers participants an opportunity to demonstrate, through the application of leadership strategies, that internal personnel can be instrumental in developing practical solutions to organizational issues.

TLA participants utilized team building and team development strategies to improve collaboration among team members. Participants work on team projects sponsored by Metro's Chief Officers.



Teams make presentations to Metro executive staff and fellow participants.

### Applying the skills

Projects offered an opportunity to apply learned skills to day-to-day operations. This year's TLA Team projects were sponsored by Deputy CEO John Catoe; Maria Guerra, Chief of Staff; Dick Brumbaugh, Chief Financial Officer; Matt Raymond, Chief Communications Officer; and Don Ott, Executive Officer of Administration.

Graduates included Essam Aly, Martin Batistelli, Eddie Boghossian, Paul Briggs, Leonid Bukhin, Jue Buley, Stefan Chasnov, Brian Collins, Aspet Davidian, Byron England, Robert Fischer, Steve Fox, Bill Grunwald, Andy Hughes, Tom Lee, Tim Lindholm, Johnny Lindsey, Frank Lonyai, Roger Martin, Narashimha Murthy, Bob New, Tim Papandreou, Thom Pelk, Steve Rosenberg, Kathleen Sanchez and Wayne Wassell.



Deputy CEO John Catoe, right, presents TLA diploma to graduate Aspet Davidian at conclusion of intensive hands-on program.

TLA was initially developed by UCLA's Anderson School of Business in 1996 and Metro was awarded FTA grant funds to start the program. In 1999, Metro's OD&T internal staff were trained by UCLA to deliver the program in-house and have introduced many new leadership models and best practices.

To be considered for the program, eligible candidates, Grades O and

above, must complete an application and be selected by their Chief Officer. Applications for the Fall 2005 session will be available in August with classes beginning in September.

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