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# The mechanics class graduate are shown here are Marilin Archie, Victoria Bright, Manual Cendejas, Sergio Gomez, Lawrence Kimp, Victor Lares, Glen Lujan, Benji Martinez, Rodney McRae, Ira Moore and Lawrence Turner. Graduate Richard Donelean is not pictured. Joining them at the ceremony were ATU Local 1277 President Neil Silver, center, and Steve Mullaly, Brian Markey, Mark Anderson and Richard Hunt.



Photos by Bill Heard

**Archives** 

# 12 Former Service Attendants Certified as Metro Bus Mechanics

• Tough 18-month course combined classroom, OJT training

### By BILL HEARD, Editor

(June 6, 2006) Clutching shiny new torque wrenches – a symbol of their trade – 12 newly certified Metro bus mechanics were all smiles, May 31, during graduation ceremonies at the Regional Rebuild Center.

The dozen graduates had survived an intense 18-month course that combined nine months of technical classroom instruction with another nine months of on-the-job training in operating division maintenance shops.

All 12 of the new mechanics started their Metro careers as service attendants. They were selected by union seniority from among 18 who qualified for the mechanics training class. A total of 88 service attendants originally applied.



Newly minted mechanic Marilin Archie said her decision to complete the 18month course was "the best decision I've ever made."

Speaking at the ceremony, graduate

Marilin Archie said applying for the course was the "best decision I've ever made. Since becoming part of the program, I've gained an enormous amount of confidence, knowledge and the ability to perform any task." Mechanics training classes are convened twice every 18 months under an agreement negotiated between Metro and the ATU, which represents maintenance employees.

## 'First rung of your life'

"This is the first rung of your life," ATU Local 1277 President Neil Silver told the graduates. "This is a trade no one can take away from you, but you can take it with you."



ATU Local 1277 President Neil Silver told the graduates they had learned a valuable trade and skills that will last them a lifetime.

The graduates and their new assignments are Marilin Archie, Division 7; Victoria Bright, Division 5; Manual Cendejas, Division 3; Richard Donelean, Division 7; Sergio Gomez, Division 18; Lawrence Kimp, Division 8; Victor Lares, Division 7; Glen Lujan, Division 1; Benji Martinez, Division 7; Rodney McRae, Division 18; Ira Moore, Division 7; and Lawrence Turner, Division 5.

Among those attending the graduation ceremony were sector general managers Richard Hunt and David Armijo; Operations Administration Managing Director Andrea Burnside, Operations Training Director Mark Anderson, Equipment Maintenance Instructor Steve Mullaly, and Maintenance Instructor Brian Markey.

"I hope this training has opened new doors for you," Markey told the graduates. "Keep learning!"

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