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## Students on the move: TCAP promotes transportation careers in four area high schools



From left, Benjamin Franklin High School students join with Metro mentors and TCAP director at graduation ceremony April 27. From left student Jose Ortega, teacher James Dunlavey, students Andrew Martinez and Teresa Elizondo, Metro mentors Steve Brye and Sharad Mulchand, student Melissa Cando, OD&T Director Marion Jane Colston and student Veronica Leon.

(May 15, 2007) With high school graduation ceremonies set to take place in June throughout Los Angeles County, five high school seniors from Benjamin Franklin High School can toss their graduation caps in the air, not just once, but twice.

The five students recently graduated from a seven-week course in the real world of transportation conducted by Metro's Transportation Career Academy Program (TCAP).

Organizational Development and Training (OD&T) Director Marion Jane Colston hosted graduation ceremonies on April 27, presenting students with certificates and Metro mementos for their participation in the work-study program.

TCAP is a "school within a school," said Colston. Students from participating high schools can select transportation as a career alternative as early as the ninth grade and advance to a seven-week internship at Metro in the 11th and 12th grades.

The internship introduces the students to a variety of fields and related skills in architectural design, engineering, urban planning, and computer literacy.

It takes a regular "transit village" to accomplish the decade-long program, said Colston.

This year, volunteers Steve Brye and Sharad Mulchand, both transportation planning managers, were honored for their contributions to the mentoring aspect of the program. The two mentors devoted their skills and expertise to guiding students from Locke and Garfield high schools in the restoration of two vintage streetcars over a five-year period.

The vintage streetcars, in operation in Los Angeles more than 100 years ago, arrived at the high schools on a flatbed in 2000, and after painstaking restoration, took their place in history at Travel Town in Griffith Park.

*Text and photos by Gayle Anderson*

OD&T administrative intern Katie Talbert presents graduate Melissa Cando with graduation certificate. In the background, training coordinator Nellie Quevedo. .



Director Marion Jane Colston had a special commendation for student Jose Ortega.



Star awards went to mentors Steve Brye and Sharad Mulchand who volunteered as mentors on a five-year project with Locke High and Garfield High students restoring two vintage streetcars now on display at Travel Town in Griffith Park.



See myMetro.net report June 14, 2005: [TCAP Students Complete Restoration of Vintage Streetcar](#)

