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Dianne Sirisut, communications coordinator, led the in-service training for the Metro interns on July 23.

Photos by
Sarah Winfrey

Metro Interns Tour Busy Metrolink Central Maintenance Facility

By SARAH WINFREY

(July 29, 2008) Metro's interns had a treat, July 23, when the Organizational Development and Training (OD&T) Department held an in-service training for them. This one-day event encourages high school and college interns to learn more about the transportation industry.

"The purpose is to expose Metro interns to other areas of transportation," said Dianne Sirisut, OD&T communications coordinator.

Seventy-seven interns from every department gathered on the Gateway Tower's 4th floor to meet and greet each other before heading out to the day's piece-de-resistance, a tour of the Metrolink Central Maintenance Facility, where 32 trains arrive each day for maintenance.

Sirisut brought three of her department's interns to help manage the event: Tahira Sadiqa, Katie Talbert and Arianne Bulus.

Heading down to Track 6 in Union Station, the interns boarded a Metrolink train that would take them directly to the maintenance facility near Cypress Park. Riding slowly from Union Station and past Metro Gold Line Division 21, the interns heard Metrolink's Laurene Lopez speak of her career in transportation.

"I've been in government for my entire career," said Lopez, a community relations administrator, adding that her work was very challenging. "It's not about money if you follow what you want to do."

At the maintenance facility, every one disembarked the train and broke into two groups to tour that area. Metrolink Maintenance Manager Ron Svobobda



Metrolink Maintenance Manager Ron Svobobda explained to the Metro interns the techniques Metrolink uses to move

explained to the students the push-pull technique that Metrolink uses to move its trains.

Carlos Perez, a manager of maintenance, noted that Metrolink hit a milestone in June, carrying 50,000 travelers in one day, and emphasized Metrolink’s safety.

“Our trip to the Metrolink facility was great to learn about the equipment , mechanics and technology of the rail, which are things I could only think of abstractly before seeing it firsthand,” said Isabelle Alford-Lago, Marketing Department intern.