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- ▶ [Safety](#)
- ▶ [Pressroom](#) (web)
- ▶ [Ask the CEO](#)
- ▶ [CEO Forum](#)
- ▶ [Employee Recognition](#)
- ▶ [Employee Activities](#)
- ▶ [Metro Projects](#)
- ▶ [Facts at a Glance](#) (web)
- ▶ [Archives](#)
- ▶ [Events Calendar](#)
- ▶ [Research Center/Library](#)
- ▶ [Metro Classifieds](#)
- ▶ [Bazaar](#)

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- ▶ [30/10 Initiative](#)
- ▶ [Policies](#)
- ▶ [Training](#)
- ▶ [Help Desk](#)
- ▶ [Intranet Policy](#)

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^ **Slide show** *Photos by Express Photo*

Metro Honors 241 Outstanding Employees at ‘Night of Stars’ Gala

- [List of Stars:](#) And the award goes to ...
- [Credit Roll:](#) It takes a village

By RICK JAGER

(Oct. 21, 2008) Over 240 Metro employees were honored for outstanding performance and achievements over the past five years of service during a special “Night of Stars” ceremony held in downtown Los Angeles.

Unprecedented in number, 218 Metro transportation and maintenance employees who met certain criteria, including no lost work-time due to injuries, receiving no disciplinary action, zero traffic accidents and no excessive absenteeism over the last five years, were awarded a five-year performance award represented by a golden medallion.

Metro’s “Night of Stars” event was held Oct. 17 at the Westin Bonaventure Hotel in downtown Los Angeles. Chief Operating Officer Carolyn Flowers, officiating as Mistress of Ceremonies for the evening, led the presentations alongside Metro Rail General Manager Mike Cannell, whose sector hosted the gala event.

Eleven individuals were selected to

receive the Metro Spotlight Award for going above and beyond the call of duty. This category was open to any Metro operations, maintenance or administrative employee with a minimum of six months on duty. Their performance exemplifies the agency's mission and core values.

The "Spotlight" award winners were nominated by the five Metro Service Sectors, Metro Rail and administrative staff. The winners received a commemorative plaque.

The "Spotlight" award winners included nine Electronic Communication Technicians (ECTs) who formed a tag team a year ago from each of the five Metro Service Sectors to meet monthly with members from the Automated Transit Management System (ATMS) to develop maintenance reports and action plans to make the system work better and more efficiently. These nine individuals recognized during the ceremonies were Blanca Montiel-Harris and Jens Bernardino, Metro San Fernando Valley; John Estel and Carlos Ortiz, Metro Westside/Central; William "Carl" Sullivan, Metro South Bay; Fred Minook, Metro San Gabriel Valley; Jose Ramirez, Metro Gateway Cities; Ed Turienzo, Metro Revenue Collections, and Al Martinez, Transit System Engineering.



Marco Pedemonte, Equipment Maintenance Supervisor at the Arthur Winston Division, takes home a Leadership Award.



Carolyn Flowers congratulates Spotlight Award winner Marie Tervalon.

In addition, Phong Nguyen from Metro Rail operations (Metro Blue Line Fleet Services) and Marie Tervalon from Metro's administrative staff (Customer Relations) received "Spotlight" awards.

Nguyen was recognized for his efforts in working with the transportation department at the Metro Blue Line and successfully maintaining a 100 percent on-time compliance for the past several years.

Tervalon was recognized as the "go-to" person in Customer Relations who consistently demonstrates extraordinary customer service performance, always going the extra mile above and beyond the call of duty, taking personal pride in her job and the agency.

In the special "Can Do" recognition category, two awards were presented to Bruce Shelburne (Metro Rail Division Transportation Manager) and Steve Rank (Assistant Operations Control Manager), recognized for their leadership role in coordinating all of Metro's special event service and working with operations to set up various detours as well as providing the needed staff support for the numerous special events that occur throughout LA County.

In the Leadership category, new this year, ten AFSCME employees received awards for strong leadership skills and mentoring skills, demonstrating expertise in day-to-day operations. They are: John Cohen, Bus Operations Control; Lee Quick, Bus Operations Central Instruction; Marco Pedemonte, South Bay; Tom LaPatka, San Gabriel Valley; James Irvin Green, Westside/Central; Joanna Ricci, San Fernando Valley; Robert Ponce, Rail Operations; Esther Pippins, Rail Instruction; Thurmon Green, Rail Operations Control, and William Marshall, Gateway Cities.

The annual “Nights of Stars” event recognizes Metro’s outstanding employees for their meritorious work records and contributions to excellence. Over 400 Metro employees and staff members attended this year’s event.

--Esther Carlstone contributed to this report.

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