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The last Rail Operations graduation class of 2008 are certified Dec. 5. Front row, from left, Lauro Trejo, Frank Gonzalez, Kirsten Bell, Dane Millington and Keith Selico. Back row, from left, Eric Smith, Arlene Mills, Dawn Williams, Dhamendra Kellawan and Bruce Stamps. *Photos by Gayle Anderson.*

Rail Operations Graduates 10 of Metro's Finest

By GAYLE ANDERSON

(Feb. 5, 2009) The December 2008 graduating class of Rail Operations added three Rail Transit Operations Supervisors (RTOS) and seven train operators to the ranks of some 200 train operators who pilot the Metro Rail system through a countywide maze of tracks and tunnels to transport an average of 300,000 customers a day.

"The expertise acquired and achieved by operators means the quality of service will continue," Rail General Manager Mike Cannell told the group of graduates.

One by one, Cannell presented each graduate with a framed official certificate, a distinctive new Metro Rail employee badge and a hearty handshake.

Along with a framed graduation certificate, Cannell handed out a poster of an illustration of a smiling Metro train carrying a globe of the world and smiling passengers on board framed by the slogan "Metro moves the world, with a smile."

It's a recurrent theme that Cannell uses to remind new graduates to make the trip on Metro Rail not only safe and courteous, but a very pleasant experience for Metro customers.

The training consists of an



Class of 2008 includes three new Transit Operations Supervisors: Lauro Trejo, Kirsten Bell and Frank Gonzalez.

overview of the rail system and concentrated instruction on rules and procedures followed by hands-on yard operation, mainline operation and procedures specific to operation of each rail line, said Linda Leone, rail instruction manager. In this class, the graduates trained specifically for the Metro Blue Line trains.

In making the transition from bus to train, the new train operators will be responsible for handling vehicles with more weight, with much faster speeds and many times more passengers.

The instructors encouraged the students to work as a team, helping each other learn standard operating procedures, rail safety, mainline and yard operation and vehicle troubleshooting.

Directed by Rail Instruction Manager Linda Leone, the class was conducted by rail training instructors Arnold Johnson, Gerald Harper, Willard Johnson, Frank Hooks, Esther Pippins, Luis Canel, Ricardo Perez, and Cris Medina.



Rail graduates bond with their instructors during the seven-week training course. Here, new train operators Dawn Williams and Keith Selico, right, celebrate with instructors Arnold Johnson, at left, and Willard Johnson, second from right.

The new operators are Dhamendra Kellawan, Dane Millington, Arlene Mills, Keith Selico, Eric Smith, Bruce Stamps and Dawn Williams.

Three of the graduates - Lauro Trejo, Frank Gonzalez, Kirsten Bell - take up duties as Transit Operations Supervisors.

New train operator Arlene Mills, a former Bus Operator out of West Hollywood Division, has been assigned to the Metro Blue Line. The remaining train operators from the class will rotate into Rail Operations from Bus Divisions when positions become available.