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TCAP interns who began their transit studies July 10 gather with program coordinators for a class photo on Aug. 8. Click [here](#) or on image to expand view. *Photos by Gayle Anderson*

TCAP Interns Experience Successful Summer Stint at Metro

(Sept. 17, 2009) If a successful internship program is defined as one that provides a welcoming and productive environment, then Metro's Transportation Career Academy Program (TCAP) is doing exceptionally well.

Several interns who started with Metro this summer completed their program at an Aug. 28 ceremony which included an encouraging speech from CEO Art Leahy and an invitation to return by Marion Jane Colston, Director, Strategic & Organizational Planning.

A total of 95 interns participated in the summer TCAP program this year, some of them coming from high schools which include North Hollywood, Franklin, Wilson and John Glenn.



CEO Art Leahy draws from his own experience to advise the next generation of potential transit officials.

Leahy told the exiting interns what he said he would state to his own children as they were growing up -- focus on getting a good education.

"The market is a cold place if you don't have anything that the market values," he said. "If you have no skills, if you don't have any brain power, then your ability to compete in the market is going to be very poor, and you're going to be without power."

Referring to his own experience, Leahy stated, "You might come here as a bus driver while you're going to college and you might end up being the CEO. There's going to be a vacancy in the future, so you'd better get ready."

Colston said it was a "fantastic" experienced to work with the interns, and she praised them for working well together despite the difference in schools.

"Many of you became friends with one another despite the fact that you attend different high schools and have competing sport and academic programs," Colston said. "You are welcome to come back and apply for the college internship program."

Jose Alcantar, who recently graduated from John Glenn High School, and said he was "happy to participate" and planned to return.

"This was a great first job and helped in creating the momentum for college. I recommend the program highly and plan on re-applying for a college internship," he said.

Alcantar, who interned in the Long Range Planning Department, assisted in research and helped complete a department reference project. He currently attends Long Beach City College and plans to transfer into Cal State-Long Beach to study electrical engineering.

"I was really impressed by the professionalism of everybody I worked with. Everyone I met wants Metro to succeed and it amazed me how everyone works so well together," he said.

Not only did the TCAP interns learn new skills in Metro's various departments, they also attended weekly in-service training courses taught by Colston, Metro Senior Development & Training specialists and by adjunct faculty from East Los Angeles College.

The courses were expected to enhance subjects students studied in high school which included urban planning, engineering, and Computer-Aided



Student Jose Alcantar, at right, with mentor Falan Guan, Transportation Planning Manager, and fellow student Rosanna Espinoza Below, Andy Ho, with mentor and program director Marion Jane Colston and fellow student Kenia Miranda.



Design (CAD).



TCAP interns from John Glenn High School collect their diploma certificates at graduation ceremony Aug. 27.

Andy Ho, who interned in Manpower System & Support, was just as pleased with his experience.

"The program gave me the opportunity to see things the way they really are in the corporate world. I'd recommend the TCAP program to anyone interested in working in a large company. What impressed me was the fact that everyone I worked with at Metro was working toward a common goal," Ho said.

Like Alcantar, Ho is a graduate of John Glenn High School and plans to attend Cerritos College in the fall and eventually earn a degree in sports management.



TCAP interns from Franklin High School collect their diploma certificates at graduation ceremony Aug. 27.

Both students said they would recommend that young people who've been through the program be given the opportunity to talk with young people coming into the program for the first time.

"That would give them some idea of what to expect and show them that it won't be an entirely overwhelming experience," said Alcantar.

Part of the experience began before they arrived at work.

Both Alcantar and Ho rode Metro trains together to get to work every day. The pair would pick up the Metro Green Line train in Norwalk, transfer to the Metro Blue Line and then board the Metro Red Line for the final leg of their daily trip to Gateway Plaza.

"Taking the train every day really put a face on what Metro does," said Alcantar. "I think people really don't appreciate what it takes to keep the trains and buses working as efficiently as they do."

-- from staff reports