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The last Rail Operations graduation class of 2009 gets on board Dec. 17, Front row, from left, operators Carlos Carias, Richard Cordero, Ticely McCarther, Michael Morris, Sergio Montalvo, Jesus Serrano, Ernestina Verdo and Sergio Zaragoa. Back row, instructors Freddie Marlow, Will Johnson, Arnold 'A.J.' Johnson, Josie Robles, and Hector Gutierrez.

Rail Operations Graduates Eight of Metro's Finest

(Dec. 22, 2009) The December 2009 graduating class of Rail Operations added eight train operators to the ranks of some 230 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.



Class adds two female operators to the ranks. Above Ticely McCarther and, below, Ernestina Verdo, are congratulated by Director of Rail Transportation Tom Jasmin.

"The expertise acquired and achieved by operators means the quality of service will continue," Director of Rail Transportation Manager Tom Jasmin told the group of graduates.

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

The training consists of an 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



Below, Graduate Sergio Zaragoa and wife Corina, residents of Ontario, will celebrate rail certification for the holidays.



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 Freddie Marlow, Will Johnson, Arnold 'A.J.' Johnson, Josie Robles, and Hector Gutierrez.

The new train operators from the class will rotate into Rail Operations from Bus Divisions when positions become available.