



NEWS

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LOCKE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS TO PARTICIPATE IN MTA "CAREER DAY" AS PART OF AGENCY'S TRANSPORTATION CAREERS ACADEMY PROGRAM

Eighty students from Locke High School in south central Los Angeles will visit MTA headquarters for a day Wednesday, April 26, to learn about various facets of the public transportation industry as part of MTA's Transportation Careers Academy Program.

The Academy is a "school within a school" program jointly sponsored by the MTA and the Los Angeles Unified School District that targets high school students interested in transportation-related careers, including urban planning, architecture, engineering and other trades applicable to the industry.

"Our high school students are the transportation planners of the future," said MTA Chief Executive Officer Franklin E. White. "I am pleased that our Transportation Careers Academy program provides bright young people the opportunity to join us for a day to see for themselves the exciting work we're involved in."

Among the Locke High School students to visit the MTA will be Jermaine W. McCrary, 14, and Norma Benitez, 15, both south central Los Angeles residents.

"I want more than one major to fall back on in the future," said ninth grader McCrary. "My primary goal is to become a marine biologist, but I also have an interest in engineering and architectural design. That's the main reason I joined the Transportation Careers Academy."

Tenth grader Benitez is exploring several options, including a possible career in medicine. She is participating in the program "because I want to learn more

(MORE)

CAREER DAY

Page 2

about fields other than medicine," she said. "I want to take advantage of every opportunity that is offered to me so that I can become a well-rounded and important person in the future."

The program is open to all students from participating high schools who meet attendance and academic performance requirements, said Naomi Nightingale, the program's director for MTA.

"The partnership we have with the schools creates opportunities and learning environments for students to understand the relevance of education to career goals and job preparation," Nightingale said. "It provides excellent preparation for those wanting to go on to community colleges or universities for further studies, or even to entry level jobs in the transportation industry."

The TCA program is fully funded by grants and matched funding from the MTA, the U.S. Federal Transit Administration, the Office of Civil Rights, the U.S. Department of Education, and the Office of Vocational and Adult Education, in cooperation with the L.A. Unified School District.

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