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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Local High Schools Compete to Find L.A.'s Best Destinations Via Metro System

- **Locke High School in South Los Angeles wins first place in "Discover L.A. Via Metro: the \$3 Vacation" competition.**

Can you really visit Los Angeles' best destinations in a single day for only three bucks?

That's what teams from four local high schools found out in the "Discover L.A. Via Metro: the \$3 Vacation" competition recently conducted by Metro.

Five-member teams from Benjamin Franklin, Locke, North Hollywood and Woodrow Wilson High Schools competed against each other on March 5 to plan and implement the best \$3 vacation within Los Angeles County. Winners, selected March 25, ranked as follows:

- **First place:** Locke High School, 325 E. 111<sup>th</sup> St., Los Angeles, CA 90061
- **Second place:** Woodrow Wilson High School, 4500 Multnomah St., Los Angeles, CA 90032
- **Third place:** North Hollywood High School, 5231 Colfax Ave., North Hollywood, CA 91601
- **Fourth place:** Benjamin Franklin High School, 820 N. Ave 54, Los Angeles CA, 90042

Students are members of the Metro Transportation Career Academy Program (TCAP), a community workforce development program that encourages 11- and 12<sup>th</sup>-grade students to pursue careers in transportation. The TCAP program is sponsored by Metro in cooperation with the Los Angeles Unified School District and Norwalk/La Mirada Unified School District.

"This competition enabled students to learn about the Metro system while helping them develop important team-building, oral and written communication skills," said Lynda Bybee, Deputy Executive Officer, Metro Community Relations. "Many students were surprised they could easily access so many diverse destinations in the Los Angeles area using Metro Bus and Rail."

Student teams, accompanied by school and Metro supervisors, prepared their own travel itineraries. Teams logged each location they visited into a travel itinerary, noting site name, starting and ending location, miles traveled and transportation used to reach their destination.

Teams gave oral presentations on their itineraries, took site photos and wrote essays detailing why the team's itinerary was the best one for taking a one-day vacation with the Metro Day Pass.

Itineraries included destinations such as museums, historical landmarks, art and entertainment centers, sports arenas, and ethnic districts and more. Teams began at downtown's Union Station and traveled as far as Long

PHOTO: JUAN OCAMPO



**\$3 Vacation:** North Hollywood High School students, from left, Otto Hovsepian, Jesus del Val, Linda Nunez, Leonela Colque and Victor Sotero, reach Metro Gold Line Memorial Park Station in Pasadena on a quest for best itinerary.

Beach, Inglewood, Pasadena and Universal City. North Hollywood High School, for example, traveled a total of 102 miles on Metro Rail during the competition.

“Unity and teamwork were keys to our success,” according to the Locke High School team. “From our trip, we saw how in one day, less than five hours, and with a few people, one can virtually see all of what Los Angeles has to offer.”

Contest entries were judged on a point scale according to criteria such as greatest number of sites visited, best use of Metro Bus and Rail connections, and best location representing the essence of Los Angeles. Prizes included monthly Metro passes, movie tickets, and Metro merchandize.

The Metro Day Pass is a convenient and cost-effective fare medium that allows unlimited rides on the Metro Bus and Rail system on the day of purchase until 2 a.m. the following day. The pass is the best way for vacation and other travelers to freely visit L.A. County destinations.

In preparation for the competition, students researched L.A. area destinations on the Metro web site ([www.metro.net](http://www.metro.net)) and Experience LA web site ([www.experiencela.com](http://www.experiencela.com)). The Experience LA site is a new online resource for exploring the county’s wealth of cultural attractions. The site provides searchable destination and event directories, interactive maps and cultural itineraries, and easy-to-use information on using public transit to get there.

For additional information on the Metro Day Pass or the Metro system, call 1-800-COMMUTE or visit [WWW.METRO.NET](http://WWW.METRO.NET).

***Editor’s Note:*** Metro Media Relations can provide video footage of the competition to broadcast media upon request. It can also provide contacts for school teams.

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