

## **Two LACCD Colleges Selected for Inclusion in \$9.5 Million Federal Grant Awarded to Promote Careers in Transit**

LOS ANGELES – On August 25, U.S. Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx participated today in an event at Los Angeles Trade-Technical College (LATTC) to announce \$9.5 million in grant awards through the Federal Transit Administration’s (FTA) Innovative Public Transportation Workforce Development program. Nationwide, 19 projects in 13 states were selected to receive funding to help train a new generation of skilled workers and support long-term careers in the public transportation industry.

“In Los Angeles and across the country, as ridership continues to trend upward and major transit projects are planned, built, and put into service, the transit industry will continue to see high demand for skilled workers,” said Secretary Foxx. “We are committed to making careers in transit a pathway to education, financial security, and other Ladders of Opportunity, especially for those in disadvantaged communities.”

Secretary Foxx was joined by FTA Acting Administrator Therese McMillan, Los Angeles Community College District Board of Trustees president Scott Svonkin, administrators from both LATTC and LAVC, Community Career Development, Inc. (CCD), the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro), and state and local officials. Students from LATTC’s Transportation Technologies program were also on hand to speak about their experiences and demonstrate the skills they have learned at LATTC.

“In many communities, there are shortages of operators, technicians, planners, and other skilled professionals that are indispensable to public transit,” said FTA Acting Administrator McMillan. “With so many people suffering from a lack of career options and social mobility, we are proud to support these innovative projects that will connect the individuals who most need assistance to the transit systems that will recognize and reward their hard work and potential.”

Two organizations in Los Angeles were selected in this latest round of FTA workforce development grants: LATTC will receive funding to establish the Institute for Advanced Transportation Technology Training – the first program of its kind in a community college in the country; and CCD will receive funding along with LAVC, for its Moving Employees into Transit Related

Opportunities (METRO) program , which will recruit and train low-income individuals, women, veterans, minorities, and others from communities throughout Los Angeles.

“The Los Angeles Community College District’s top priority is to help our students go from colleges to their future and today’s grant will help more students move to careers in transportation technology, “ said LACCD Board of Trustees president Svonkin. “We thank the Obama administration, Transportation Secretary Foxx, the FTA and all of our partners, staff and faculty that supported this training. An effective transportation system moves people to their destination, and so it with this partnership. It will help us move students from high school into community college and then into high-demand, high-paying careers.”

“We applaud the FTA for selecting Los Angeles Trade-Technical College to be the first community college in the country designated as a transportation institute. The training provided at Trade Tech has changed lives in our communities, and creates pathways to important careers,” said U.S. Congresswoman Karen Bass, whose district includes the college, “This type of workforce development will create opportunities for students to move into high-demand transportation industries that support our neighborhoods.”

FTA’s workforce development projects will develop or expand strategic partnerships with transit agencies, labor unions, nonprofits, and academic institutions, and some will also support small businesses in the transit sector owned by women and minorities. In addition, several projects will serve as scalable models that can be applied to future projects throughout the United States.

These grants come at a crucial time in the transportation industry. The federal Departments of Transportation, Education, and Labor recently released the study, *Strengthening Skills Training and Career Pathways Across the Transportation Industry*, that details projected increases in future demand for skilled transportation workers.

The report indicates that employers will need to hire and train a total of 4.6 million new workers – 1.2 times the current transportation workforce – due to expected growth, retirements, and turnover in the transportation industry from 2012 to 2022. It is projected that 417,000 of these positions will be created as a direct result to increased demand on our transportation systems, and the highest percentage of these jobs will be in transit and ground passenger transportation.

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