



# TCU/IAM Advanced Training

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## Women Breaking New Ground as Carmen

Alexandra Leach transferred into the TCU/IAM program in July, 2006 from the Flatwoods Job Corps Center after completing her trade in welding. When asked if she knew anything about Amtrak before attending the Potomac TCU/IAM she said, "Nothing at all. I thought I was coming to advanced training so I could work in the airline industry." With Alex's experience in welding and excellent work in the program, she was the perfect candidate for Amtrak.



Alexandra Leach, Carman at Amtrak Ivy City Yard

She applied for a Coach Cleaner position at Union Station and was hired in April of 2007 making \$11.97/hr. After three months she knew she wanted to be a Carman. After

putting in her full year of time as a Coach Cleaner, she applied for the Carman position and was hired. After 5 months of training she became a Carman making \$27/hr.

When asked what motivated her to move up she said, "I had a lot of encouragement from Amtrak. I saw what the Carmen did and I wanted to do the same

thing. I like working with my hands, I fix anything that needs it."

Using her Amtrak benefits, she has traveled to New York and Miami and is able to visit her family in North Carolina. After 4 years she now has Saturdays and Sundays off, but not holidays. "I'd rather work the holidays. You get that extra pay of time and a half." she explained.

Alexandra is not done moving up though. She wants to advance as far as she can. When asked if she had any advice for students going through the program now, she simply said, "Tell them to keep their head up. Anything is possible."

Contact one of our Regional Coordinators for more info:

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Visit our website at <http://tcu.jobcorps.gov>

## What is a Conductor?

Conductors are responsible for inspecting, switching, spotting cars, and making up trains. There are freight and passenger conductors. They ensure that rail equipment stays on the move, keeping passengers or commodities and finished goods rolling between points of origin and destination. Conductors also ensure compliance with all railroad rules and the regulations of the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA).

En route, the conductor supervises the operation and

administration of the train. Conductors on passenger trains oversee all on-train employees. They also ensure all revenue documents are collected and verified in accordance with designated tariffs.

A conductor ensures the safety of passengers and crew by making sure all safety rules are strictly followed.

Some Qualifications: GED/HSD, 18 or older, driver's license, pass employer testing, lift at least 50 lbs, pass a drug test, willing to work outdoors in all kinds of weather, and have a clean court record.



Willie Pace, an Assistant Conductor for Amtrak in Washington, DC, graduated from the St. Louis TCU/IAM Program in 2009

## TRANSPORTATION PLACEMENT HIGHLIGHTS

**ERIN BURNSIDE**  
Gary TCU/IAM  
Amtrak  
Coach Cleaner  
\$15.01/hr

**LILIANA JUAREZ**  
Los Angeles TCU/IAM  
Swissport Corporation  
Passenger Service Agent  
\$11.55/hr

**LATASHA GREEN**  
Potomac TCU/IAM  
Amtrak  
Coach Cleaner  
\$15.01/hr

**KAREN DURAN**  
San Jose TCU/IAM  
Greyhound Bus Lines  
Ticket Clerk  
\$10.75/hr

**JESSICA TORRES**  
Shriver TCU/IAM  
Amtrak  
Red Cap  
\$16.04/hr

**CORY CLAY**  
St Louis TCU/IAM  
BNSF Railway  
Assistant Conductor  
\$26.39/hr

**CADE QUIMBY**  
Excelsior Springs TCU/IAM  
AEP River Operations  
Deckhand  
\$14.83/hr

**EDUARDO HERNANDEZ**  
Humphrey TCU/IAM  
Amtrak  
Electrician  
\$25.40/hr

**FREDERICK CLARK**  
Atlanta TCU/IAM  
FedEx Express  
Material Handler  
\$12.61/hr

# TCU/IAM Transferred 98 Students this Quarter!

## ATLANTA REGION

Bamberg: 4  
Batesville: 1  
Brunswick: 1  
Gadsden: 1  
Gainesville: 1  
Homestead: 1  
Kittrell: 4  
Lyndon B. Johnson: 3  
Miami: 1  
Montgomery: 6  
Oconaluftee: 3  
Schenck: 1

## CHICAGO REGION

Blackwell: 1  
Cincinnati: 1  
Denison: 5  
Flint/Genesee: 2  
Gerald R. Ford: 2  
Joliet: 2  
Quentin-Burdick: 1

## BOSTON REGION

Delaware Valley: 4  
Edison: 3  
Glenmont: 1  
Grafton: 1  
Northlands: 1  
Oneonta: 1  
South Bronx: 1  
Westover: 2

## SAN FRANCISCO REGION

Hawaii: 1  
Inland Empire: 1  
Phoenix: 2  
Sacramento: 1  
Sierra Nevada: 1  
Timber Lake: 2  
Treasure Island: 1  
Wolf Creek: 2

## PHILADELPHIA REGION

Blue Ridge: 1  
Carl D. Perkins: 4  
Charleston: 3  
Earle C. Clements: 1  
Flatwoods: 2  
Great Onyx: 1  
Harpers Ferry: 3  
Keystone: 1  
Muhlenberg: 2  
Old Dominion: 2  
Pine Knot: 1  
Red Rock: 1  
Woodland: 1  
Woodstock: 2

## DALLAS REGION

Cass: 2  
Kicking Horse: 1  
Ouachita: 2  
Talking Leaves: 1  
Treasure Lake: 1

## Potomac TCU/IAM Students Tour Amtrak's Ivy City Yard for Field Trip



Leading the Potomac TCU/IAM students on a tour of the Amtrak Ivy City maintenance facility are Patrick Woodward, Amtrak Safety and Environmental Coordinator (far left-white hat); Alfred Coleman, TCU/IAM Carmen Representative (right -blue hat); Desmond Chavis, Amtrak Carman and TCU/IAM alumnus (back row -yellow hat).



In January, nine TCU/IAM students visited Amtrak's Ivy City yard in Washington, DC for a field trip.

Each student was equipped with safety glasses and hard hats before entering the work area. Inside, a thorough tour was given through the facility with stops to emphasize what each area was and who was responsible for the jobs there. The students were able to see the inspection and changing of brakes, welding, maintenance, as well as the importance of safety on the job. Students were able to ask questions during the tour and received answers first hand from Amtrak employees on the job.



# TCU/IAM Job Corps Students Giving Back to the Community through Community Service



Atlanta TCU/IAM students having fun while helping out.

Students from Atlanta TCU/IAM pitched in to prepare, package, and sort freshly prepared meals for the nonprofit organization Open Hand. Open Hand provides Comprehensive Nutrition Care for a diverse population of men, women, and children in the metro Atlanta area. Their programs and services are designed to help clients meet their personal goals for good health and to assist clients and healthcare providers in the early identification, treatment, prevention, and progression of many chronic illnesses such as diabetes and AIDS.

Approximately 25 TCU/IAM students worked together as a team in the huge commercial kitchen to package

1500 meals. Meal packing involved portioning food into individual containers and snack bags on the packing assembly line, shrink wrapping, labeling, and storing. Open Hand packages 4,500 meals daily and depends heavily on volunteers in the community to help. Additionally, volunteers are needed to deliver meals to the elderly and chronically ill who may be homebound. The students were able to give back to the community in which they live and also able to participate in a great teambuilding exercise that was both memorable and rewarding.



Chastity Baldwin has the meals ready to go.



Andrea Blodgett, Kathlyn Sparks, Mira Hill, Christina Medina, Lillian Helligar and Melissa Clements holding letter, Christopher Chambers, Ashley Oaks, and TCU/IAM FER Ms. Stephanie Dion

On Friday, February 11, 2011, Instructor Stephanie Dion and eight TCU/IAM students made Valentine's Day cards for the veterans at the Edith Nourse Rogers Memorial Veterans Hospital. In return, they received a letter from Mr. Joseph P. Dooley, Chief of Voluntary Service at the Department of Veterans Affairs, thanking them on behalf of the Veterans for their thoughtful gesture. The students and staff enjoyed giving back to the veterans who have given us so much. The next project they have planned will be to design, create, and send cards to the veterans for Easter and Memorial Day and continue this new tradition for each holiday.

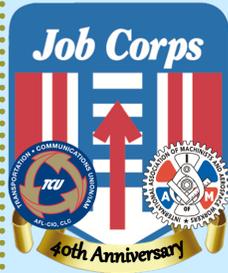


TCU/IAM students- Allen Robinson, Donald Jones, Matthew T. Taylor, and Cecil Minor III

Excelsior Springs TCU/IAM students recently volunteered their time to serve the Excelsior Springs PRIDE Community Service Project. The project included over 75 volunteers that helped clean up the yards of residents unable to do the work themselves. EJSSC TCU/IAM Advanced Training students showed their PRIDE in working hard to support the homeowners in their community not capable of caring for their yards by removing debris, raking, and cutting grass. Shown in pictures is the assembly line of the students working together to remove brush from an area residents home.



Cecil Minor III and Sharlese Arthur and fellow ES JCC student Maxwell Queen



## TCU/IAM Advanced Training Program Celebrates 40 Years With Job Corps!

The TCU/IAM Advanced Training Program opened in 1971 with 80 training slots at two Job Corps Centers: Chicago JCC in July and Los Angeles JCC in October. Gradually, the program expanded and today operates at nine locations across the country with a combined total of 450 training slots. Since 1971, TCU/IAM has placed over 10,000 students in meaningful careers with transportation employers, federal, state, and local government offices, government contractors, labor unions, and other businesses.

**TCU/IAM and JOB CORPS—A WINNING PARTNERSHIP!**

### Humphrey Students Launch Conducting Careers Through Perseverance and Commitment



Angela Griffin started at Hubert H. Humphrey JCC in December, 2009. As a non-residential student, Angela had to take a very long bus ride to training every morning, which took a lot of perseverance, preparation and planning. It also demonstrated to the TCU/IAM staff her level of intent. It was also good practice for her current position with Canadian Pacific as a conductor trainee where some of the job requirements are 'to be available to work 24 hours a day, seven days a week and be at the designated work site within two hours of receiving a call.' Angela started with Canadian Pacific in October, 2010 and feels all of her hard work paid off. A Conductor Trainee at Canadian Pacific earns between \$38,000- \$55,000 per year. She says to others thinking about this career path "Do all of your work and stick to it! It's a lot of work but worth it in the end."

Marcus Blackmon came to the Humphrey TCU/IAM program after completing the Office Administration trade at the Lyndon B. Johnson JCC in June of 2009. It was the recession and jobs didn't come easily. He wanted to leave, but knew there was nothing for him at home. He was motivated by his mom to complete the program. Finally, in October of 2010, he was invited to interview for the position of Assistant Conductor for Amtrak in Washington, DC. Waiting for a call back was difficult, but the call came and he was offered a position. He began training in November and is now an Assistant Conductor for Amtrak making \$19.83/hour. Marcus encourages other students to stay focused and not to give up. He achieved his dream of having a career making a livable wage, and credits TCU/IAM and Job Corps for giving him the tools necessary to reach his goal.



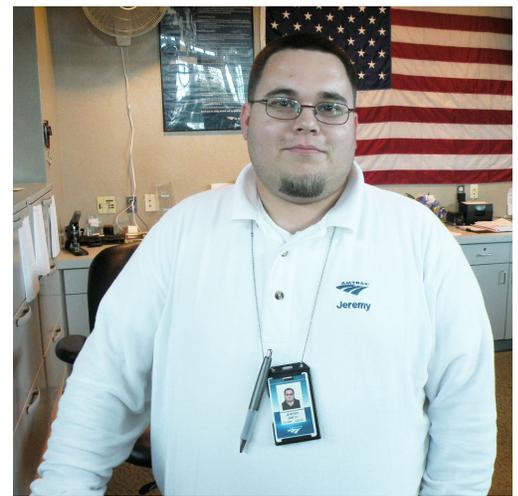
### Advanced Training Leads to Great Placements!



*Fulbert Minginfel, an Excelsior Springs graduate, was placed in March as a Carman at TTX in Tacoma, Washington, making \$14.63/hr!*



*Erin McDougale graduated in December from the Hubert Humphrey program and was hired at Amtrak as a Train Attendant in Washington, DC making \$16.72/hr!*



*Jeremy Smith graduated from the Excelsior Springs program in April of 2006 and was hired at Amtrak in Lorton, VA as a Ticket Agent making \$17/hr. Now, 5 years later, he is still on the job and makes over \$24/hr!*