You Just Never Know Who Will be Visiting Your Classroom in Job Corps!

On October 14, 2011, the TCU/IAM Training Program at Potomac JC was honored with a visit by Secretary of Labor Hilda Solis, Attorney General Eric Holder, and Assistant Secretary Jane Oates. The students were given a wonderful opportunity to share with cabinet officials their training and career goals.

Student William Agurs was selected to be part of a round table discussion. William transferred from Delaware Valley Job Corps to attend TCU/IAM to learn about the rail industry. He informed Mr. Holder that he completed the Advanced Transportation Training and just returned from an interview with Amtrak in New York for a Block Operator position and was hopeful about the job. We want to thank our distinguished guests for taking time to learn about our programs, the excellent placement opportunities for our young adults, and for their continued support of our program. Mr. Agurs has been hired with Amtrak earning $19.73 per hour and is excited about his new career.

The San Jose TCU/IAM staff and students were recently honored with a visit to their program by IAM General Vice President Gary Allen and Chief of Staff Robert Martinez. Mr. Allen and Mr. Martinez observed students in action and learned about the San Jose Advanced Transportation Training Program and excellent placements. GVP Allen expressed how these programs are vital to our future regarding all the possibilities that these centers can offer the students and communities they live in. They were very impressed with the feeling of pride and dedication by staff and students. The TCU/IAM Job Corps Program looks forward to exciting new career opportunities in the airline, aerospace, and machinist industry as a partner with the IAMAW.

Alyssa Espinosa, a transfer from Treasure Island JCC and one of the graduates on the ‘Placement Board’, graduated on January 13, 2012. She is serving as a Lead Service Attendant at the Oakland, CA Amtrak Station. Alyssa’s ‘hard work’ ethic makes it possible for her to provide a living for herself while starting a new life and career with Amtrak. “TCU/IAM really gave us an advantage especially during the two week training before our first shift. …Our training instructor even complimented us on how prepared we were.”

Ray Harris, a transfer from Little Rock JCC, graduated TCU/IAM in 2010. He started his career with Greyhound in San Jose but now works for Valley Transportation Authority, VTA, where he drives a bus on a line most Job Corps students use for local transportation in the city. Ray is now renting a two bedroom apartment and is doing very well at $14.65/hr.
TRANSPORTATION PLACEMENT HIGHLIGHTS

MITCHELL LOMBARDI
Gary TCU/IAM
TTX
Carman
$15.06/hr

CARLOS AGUIRRE
Los Angeles TCU/IAM
Aramark
Warehouse Worker
$9.13/hr

PAMELA WILLIAMS
Potomac TCU/IAM
Amtrak
Train Attendant
$17.48/hr

PHILLIP WELLS
San Jose TCU/IAM
Harvey Airfields
Receptionist
$12.00/hr

LONDON WHITE
Shriver TCU/IAM
Delta Airlines
Airport Customer Service
$10.82/hr

DESAREAL BLACK
St Louis TCU/IAM
Amtrak
Carman
$26.23/hr

TIMOTHY DAVIS
Excelsior Springs TCU/IAM
TTX
Carman
$15.07/hr

DOMINICK WOODS
Humphrey TCU/IAM
BNSF
Conductor
$24.68/hr

SHARDE WILLIAMS
Atlanta TCU/IAM
Transportation Security Admin
TSO
$14.59/hr

82 Students Transferred into TCU/IAM this Quarter!

Union Pacific's All Aboard-Commuter Operations Service Unit's magazine recently featured one of our Carman graduates. John Diggs is the Manager of Commuter Operations Mechanical. He had brought on a crew of new hires and was very impressed by their abilities. 10 of the 10 were ‘hitting on all cylinders.’ Among them was our Gary TCU/IAM and Schenck JC CCC Graduate William Cabrera:

“One of the younger transplants caught Diggs’ attention immediately... We have a 22-year-old, William Cabrera, who came to us from Miami,” Diggs said. “He’d never seen snow.” ... “He didn’t know anyone when he got here, but he sure knew a lot,” Diggs said. “He was happy we believed in him. He noted that the new employees are “extremely gifted.” “They’ve been amazing,” he said.”

William Cabrera, Union Pacific, working between the trains. Mr. Cabrera is a Gary JCC TCU/IAM and Schenck JC CCC Graduate.

Our Honor Roll of Carmen Placements

from our three Carmen Programs at Gary JCC, Excelsior Springs JCC, and St. Louis JCC –2009 to Present

Alexis Acevedo-Inland Empire-$20.61
Desareal Black-St. Louis-$26.23
Aaron Bynum-Harpers Ferry-$16.32
Darnell Brooks-Sierra Nevada-$14.62
William Cabrera-Schenck-$20.61
Desmond Chavis-Schenck-$24.94
Mitchell Colon-Flatwoods-$16.23
Timothy Davis-Schenck-$15.07
Edwin Day-Golconda-$15.07
Derrick Dove-Wolf Creek-$15.87
Stanley Gore III-Jacobs Creek-$15.07
Blake Hall-Ex.Springs-$15.07
Kevin Fotovich-Exc. Sprgs-$15.07
Thomas Ivey-Ouachita-$15.07
Ashley Jones-Schenck-$15.07
Nicholas Ligon-Westover-$15.07
John McGuade-Northlands-$16.33
Matthew C. Taylor-Exc.Sprgs-$24.94
Fulbert Minginfel-Hawaii-$15.07
Cecil Minor-Golconda-$15.07
Darien Norford-Westover-$15.07
Shawn O’Keefe-Brunswick-$14.63
Adam Orick-Exc. Springs-$14.75
Gerald Petite-Whitney Young-$14.52
Brett Trafton-Schenck-$15.07
Matthew C. Taylor-Pine Knot-$16.32
Matthew T. Taylor-Exc.Sprgs-$14.10
Andrew Wilson-Pine Knot-$15.06


TCU/IAM will be able to place 60 to 70 Carmen this year...but we need welders. If a student has had any welding experience in Job Corps or prior to Job Corps please contact one of our three Regional Coordinators for consideration of Advanced Training and the high probability of a good job!
On November 29, 2011, the Humphrey TCU/IAM students took a ride on Amtrak from St. Paul to Winona, Minnesota. Mr. Mike Allen, part-time instructor and Amtrak employee made the arrangements for the 2 ½ hour trip.

The train pulled out of the station right on time at 7:50 a.m. Most of our students had never been on a train before and were excited for the experience. Mr. Allen introduced them to the Lead Service Attendant and Conductor, and they also visited the dining car. They were able to ask questions of the employees and got a first-hand look at the job duties and responsibilities of various positions. The conductor stressed the importance of proper uniform attire, time management, and providing excellent customer service.

In Winona, the crew changed and the Engineer and Conductor got off the train and spoke to the students about their jobs and gave them plenty of time to ask questions. The engineer couldn’t say enough about safety! The Ticket Agent spoke about his job responsibilities in a one-man station, again emphasizing the importance of excellent customer service and attention to detail. Time for pictures and lunch and the bus ride back to St. Paul. A good time was had by all!!

**Atlanta TCU/IAM Tours Lockheed Martin Plant**

TCU/IAM Advanced Training is always exploring new employer linkages. So it was Atlanta TCU/IAM staff’s and students’ good fortune to be invited to tour the Lockheed plant in Atlanta/Marietta, GA, by Lockheed Martin IAM Local 709 VP, Mr. Perry Gulledge.

Our group was greeted by Mr. Hamilton Holmes, Jr. – Community Relations Manager. A video presentation of the history of the Lockheed Martin Corporation was presented. There are approximately 8,000 employees at the Marietta facility. Lockheed Martin operates in 46 states across the US.

This facility was over 3 football fields large, and boasts over 48 miles of overhead crane track to move the parts and pieces throughout the plant. Here they saw F35’s, 22’s and P-3’s being assembled. The plant was immaculate and the tour guides were extremely knowledgeable. The staff and students were appreciative to have learned more about the aerospace industry and employment opportunities. We look forward to discussing ways in which the TCU/IAM Advanced Training Program can partner in the future with Lockheed Martin to provide great career opportunities for our graduates.

**TCU/IAM is Invited to Exclusive Barge Christening**

Lead Instructors Susan Stanley, Excelsior Springs, and Mike Blumenkemper, St. Louis were invited to AEP River Operations Boat Christening Ceremony in Paducah, KY. They were given a tour of the AEP Legacy where they were able to see the crew quarters, lounge, galley, work-out room, engine room and the wheelhouse. They were able to speak with the Captain, crew members and an AEP deckhand trainer and learned many tips to succeed through the AEP training. The trainer stated he enjoyed working with TCU/IAM students hired at AEP.
Juan Castellano started at Cassadaga JCC in 2002 where he enrolled in the Business Tech Trade to sharpen his administrative studies and computer skills. He transferred to the Potomac JCC in January of 2003 to attend the TCU/IAM program. “During my time in the program I was not sure what I wanted in life, all I knew was I did not want to return home and waste my life in a job that I would not love and would not want to commit to.” Castellano said. TCU/IAM’S Lead Instructor helped guide Juan, “I knew she really cared and wanted what was best for us. She brought out the best in us as individuals.”

Juan accepted a position as Customer Service Agent for Air Wisconsin at Dulles Airport in Dulles, VA. During Juan’s time working at Dulles Airport he started to meet people who worked for United Airlines and were impressed with his work ethic and leadership skills. In 2006 his “big break” came and he was offered a Supervisor position with United Airlines making $43,000 a year.

Five years later, Juan received a call in August of 2011 from the San Jose Airport in California offering him the position of Airport Supervisor with a $60K salary including a bonus structure and profit sharing. Juan is looking at making close to $75,000 a year!

What is a Deckhand?

Deckhands assist others on the vessel in preparing barges for the loading and discharging of cargoes. Deckhands build tows by handling lines and cables to tie and untie barges and boats.

Deckhands perform scheduled vessel maintenance, care for tools and equipment, and perform general housekeeping duties as assigned by their supervisor.

They adhere to company safety policy and procedures, environmental rules and governmental regulation.

Deckhands work under the supervision of the Captain or the Deckhand’s immediate supervisor.

Candidates who are interested in a deckhand position must be:

- Physically fit
- Able to pass several strength tests
- Willing to work in all weather conditions
- On the barge for 28 days at a time
- Willing to work 12 hour shifts