



TCU/IAM Advanced Training

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All Aboard for Hands-On Training at TCU/IAM Humphrey Job Corps Program

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*Meilonie Walton- Humphrey TCU/IAM Student
on WBL at MTM*

Since June of 2013, students have been participating in hands-on Railroad Brake, Signal and Switch Operator training at the **Minnesota Transportation Museum (MTM) in St. Paul, Minnesota.**

The MTM operates the Osceola and St. Croix Valley Railway. It provides seasonal train rides through the scenic Wisconsin countryside. The museum also gives rides to visitors every Saturday at the Jackson Street Roundhouse in St. Paul.

TCU/IAM Instructor, Jim Urbach, teaches the classroom portion of air brakes, Canadian National– U.S. Operating Rules (CN-USOR), and Crew Resource Management (CRM). After

taking the formal CN-USOR test, students shadow certified volunteer crew members. This exciting experience provides students with the vital information necessary to operate a train safely and within the established rules. After receiving their Railroad Brake, Signal and Switch Operator certification, students continue their hands-on experience by volunteering as crew at MTM.

Jason Dreis, Lead Instructor, put an emphasis on developing this Work-Based Learning Program. He forged a great partnership with Dave Hartje, Executive Director of MTM, to create this real-life, hands-on experience that makes the classroom readings and lectures come to life.

Program participant Meilonie Walton said, *“The training at the MTM really helped me understand the material and kept me interested. I learned to work safely in the yard; it made me more comfortable.”*

With this unique hands-on training, students are staying “on track”. Many have obtained full-time employment as Railroad Conductors—a high demand area. Railroad Conductors typically earn between \$45,000 and \$55,000 in their first year.



Lavale Smith and Chris Motyka, Humphrey TCU/IAM Graduates and Assistant Conductors at Canadian Pacific with a training wage of \$21.63/hr.

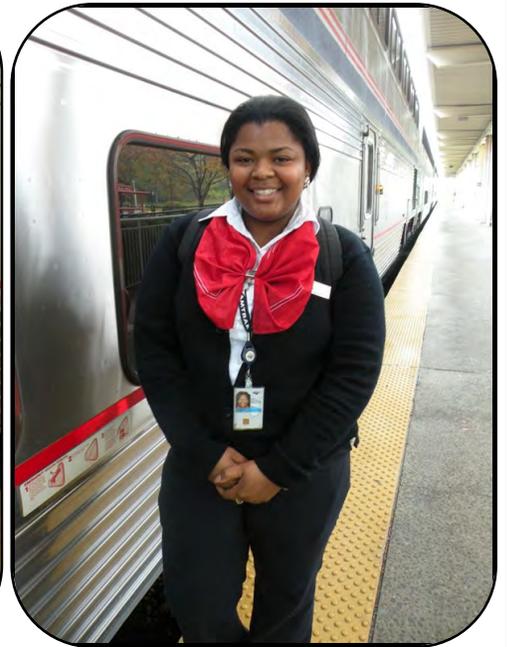
Job Corps Changes Lives — TCU/IAM Placements



AMTRAK
Lead Service Attendant
Jacinta Uperesa
San Jose JCC
\$19.29/hr



AMTRAK
Coach Cleaner to Carman Auto Train Onboard Services
Desrael Black
St. Louis JCC
\$26.34/hr



AMTRAK
Niliza Simmons
Atlanta JCC
\$18.00/hr



Norfolk Southern
Conductor
Montell Riddick
Flatwoods JCC / Gary JCC
\$32.06/hr



AMTRAK
Red Cap
Lyne Daniels
Grafton JCC / Shriver JCC
\$13.52/hr



TTX
Maintenance Specialist
Davon Macgruder
Muhlenberg JCC / Excelsior
Springs JCC
\$15.94/hr

Graduate Appreciative for Job Corps Experience

William Agurs enrolled at the **Delaware Valley JCC** in October of 2009 and took the Facilities Maintenance Trade because he enjoyed working with his hands. William did a good job during his time at Delaware Valley JCC and was recommended for the **Potomac TCU/IAM Advanced Training program** in Washington, D.C. He began his training April of 2011 and was placed with AMTRAK as a Block Operator in January 2012. A *Block Operator*, under the authority of the Train Dispatcher, is in charge of all road trains that originate or terminate at the rail yard. William said, *"I get along with everyone here and I am thankful for all the guys that helped train me, they answered all my questions and were so patient with me. When they first saw me they thought "look at this kid," but then they told the managers how impressive I was and how they wanted to make me a Train Dispatcher. I am so happy with the Block Operator position...I don't have a set schedule yet, whenever they call me and need me I come in. Sometimes I am called to work overtime and on those days I'm making over \$40/hr! I am thankful to the TCU/IAM program for helping me with everything. It's really helped me get to where I am."*



William Agurs– Amtrak Block Operator

Potomac Graduate Shares Passion for Airline Careers



Terry Johnson, a **Carl D. Perkins JCC** transfer, graduated the TCU/IAM Advanced Training Program at **Potomac Job Corps** in September of 2013. He earned a spot as a Ramp Agent with Air Wisconsin at Dulles Airport. Terry worked hard to impress his managers and within a few months was promoted to Lead Ramp Agent. Now After just 9 short months he has been promoted again to Radio Agent, letting planes know what gates to land at and setting up any special arrangements that may be necessary for passengers after they land. He came back to talk to the TCU/IAM Advanced Training students about his career at Air Wisconsin and let them know all the available opportunities that can unfold once working in the airline industry, including flight benefits. When the students asked him if he liked his job he told them *"I love... absolutely love it."*

Terry Johnson-
Air Wisconsin
Radio Operator

Los Angeles Graduate Has Long-Term Success at AMTRAK

Jose Silva was 18 years old when he graduated from the TCU/IAM program at **Los Angeles JCC** in December 1988. He interviewed with Amtrak at the Los Angeles Union Station and is grateful that Amtrak gave him an opportunity in spite of his age and inexperience. Jose has gained a good understanding about most aspects of Amtrak's operations with over 25 years of service. As ARASA Operations Supervisor, he works out of the Los Angeles Crew Base, where he assists the Assistant Superintendent of Road Operations. He provides supervisory support to management by supervising engineers and conductors working out of Los Angeles, San Diego, and San Luis Obispo. *"Long ago I came to understand very well that teamwork always pays off. My advice for current and future students in the TCU/IAM program is to be a good example and be a good mentor to the new generations, I take every opportunity to tell any young person about the Job Corps Program...I always will praise the program and recommend it because I know that if it changed my life for the better, I know it could change others as well."*

Jose Silva, Amtrak Operations Supervisor



TCU/IAM students return to the 1940s at LA MTA



Los Angeles Metropolitan Transit Authority (MTA) hosted a media event for the Los Angeles Union Station "75th" anniversary. Our students are pictured at the end of the "Montana" vintage rail car. Students Carolina Romero and Andre McClelland were dressed in 40's era clothing and fit right into the scene of old vintage/classic cars, vintage Metro bus, a WC Fields look-a-like, the Los Angeles Muses who sound like the "Andrew Sisters", and swing dancers. All of this was to kick off the big celebration that took place on May 3 at the **Los Angeles Union Station**. Carolina said, *"I liked how Metro creatively puts things like this together for others to enjoy and experience!"*

LA TCU/IAM students
Andre McClelland
and Carolina Romero



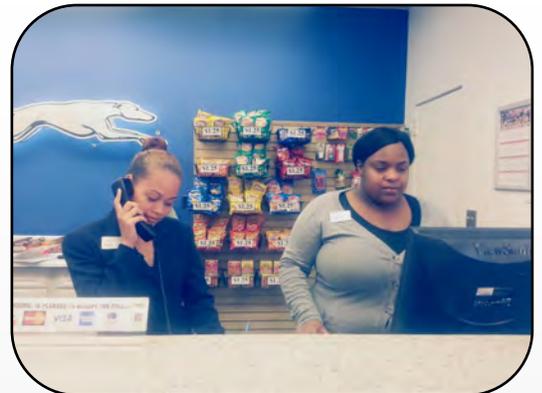
Groundhog Shadow Day Experiences

Potomac TCU/IAM

Potomac TCU/IAM students participated in Groundhog Job Shadow Day at Amtrak in Union Station in Washington, D.C. Students spent the day with Amtrak employees shadowing their day to day duties, tasks, and encounters. Throughout the day the students learned answers to many of their questions, including, boarding procedures, ticketing procedures, and the layout of Union Station. Amtrak Red Cap, Earl Austin, let the students shadow him around while he handled customers' luggage, loaded the luggage on a cart, and then eventually onto the trains. Students were allowed to take a look at ticketing and watch the boarding procedures on and off the Acela Train. Students were given this rare opportunity to see these Amtrak jobs in action and are now more excited than ever to work with Amtrak in any position! *"I was so happy after shadowing at Amtrak I just wanted to send my resume....where do I sign up!" Alexis Dickerson*



San Jose TCU/IAM



For Groundhog Shadow Day this year, San Jose TCU/IAM Students had opportunities to visit United Airlines, Greyhound Bus lines, Amtrak, and CalTrain.

"Being at United Airlines helped me realize how much actual interaction I would have with passengers which helped me out at my current employment." —Crystal Coronel



TCU/IAM Students Pay it Forward

In Their Communities

TRANSPORTATION PLACEMENT HIGHLIGHTS

HARRISON DAVIS
Gary TCU/IAM
BNSF
Conductor
\$25.26/hr

MALINA HOWARD
Los Angeles TCU/IAM
AMTRAK
Coach Cleaner
\$16.33/hr

TERRY JOHNSON
Potomac TCU/IAM
Air Wisconsin
Ramp Agent
\$9.74/hr

SHANTAYA Martinez
San Jose TCU/IAM
Frontier Airlines
Reservation Agent
\$9.55/hr

AIMEE REYES
Shriver TCU/IAM
AMTRAK
Coach Cleaner
\$15.75/hr

ERICK BURTON
St Louis TCU/IAM
TTX
Maintenance Specialist
\$15.94/hr

JUSTIN GARRETT
Excelsior Springs TCU/IAM
BNSF
Carman
\$23.63/hr

ANGELIKA PACE
Humphrey TCU/IAM
Union Pacific
Conductor
\$20.00/hr

JOYLISA HENDERSON
Atlanta TCU/IAM
Skywest
Ramp Agent
\$10.00/hr

Atlanta JCC

Atlanta students had a great time participating in Habitat for Humanity. It was a great and creative “out of the box” way for students to enhance their hard skills, learn new skills and supplement classroom learning. There were trained “construction house leaders” onsite who assisted volunteers and showed them how to properly hammer, drill, cut, etc. Safety was emphasized and everyone on the site was required to utilize Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) as well.

“It was a good experience, I really liked it. This was my first time volunteering for Habitat and I got the chance to use some of the skills I learned in my Facilities Maintenance Trade, like cutting and measuring” — Ziyonna Jenkins



Gary JCC

Gary students and staff also participated in the most worthwhile cause of building houses for families in need of housing assistance. The students thoroughly enjoyed the service project and stated they would like to continue to participate in the Habitat for Humanity service in the future. What stood out was our students' sincere desire and commitment to better themselves and the world in which they live. Their desire to give back to the community was evident.

“Habitat for Humanity is all about giving back to the community. It is a selfless act to help others build memories and share smiles. Having the opportunity enlightened me and showed me I need to do more to help my community.” — Brittany Johnson



“Habitat for Humanity showed me all the hard work that goes into building a house and how much I take the little things for granted” — Michael Bray