

TRANSIT TRAINING



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND THE CENTER FOR URBAN TRANSPORTATION RESEARCH

FLORIDA MAINTENANCE TRAINING PROGRAM

MCAT'S de la Rosa wins Mechanic of the Year HART's Allen takes 2nd, LeeTran's Giardina takes 3rd

For the second year in a row, Manatee County Area Transit (MCAT) has won the Florida Public Transportation Association's (FPTA) top award for Mechanic of the Year. First-place winner Nicholas "Nick" de la Rosa and other award winning technicians from around the state were honored at the FPTA Annual Conference, held at Sanibel Island, and hosted by LeeTran in Fort Myers. MCAT's Luis Villalobos received the top prize. De la Rosa and a fellow team member won the Cummins Engine Competition at the 2005 Florida State Bus Roadeo.



First Place—Nicholas "Nick" de la Rosa, MCAT, and Mike Johnson, FDOT.

De la Rosa's skills are numerous, including engine repair/rebuild, engine components overhaul, light and heavy air conditioning diagnostics and complete system overhaul and rebuild, air pressure and hydraulic brake systems diagnosis and repair, transmission repair and overhaul, wheel chair

system diagnosis and overhaul, electrical circuits diagnostics and repairs, and welding and fabricating expertise. He also trains less experienced technicians

in the most efficient and economical methods for repairing transit rolling stock and is sensitive to the needs of transit operations, prioritizing work assignments to meet fixed route and paratransit daily bus assignments. He has spent 220 hours in his formal training as a bus mechanic.

De la Rosa has a near-perfect record on all repairs in his five years of service to MCAT and has an outstanding employee record. Nick has not taken

a sick day during the past year, nor has he been involved in any shop accidents. He received two commendations in 2005, and his division averages 425 work orders per technician annually; he personally completed 483 work orders.

"Nick exhibits exemplary behavior and a positive attitude in the workplace," said his supervisor. "He is always able to lend a hand to his fellow workers, both on or off duty. Above all, Nick makes independent judgments and decisions required to keep the shop and workflow running safely and smoothly."

Congratulations, Nick!



Florida Department of Transportation



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HART's Allen takes 2nd!

Jerry Allen from the Hillsborough Area Regional Transportation Authority (HART) placed second in the 2005 competition. Allen began his career at HART as a Service Attendant, later qualifying for a Mechanic Level 1, 2 and 3; currently he is designated as only one of five Master Mechanics within the HART Maintenance Department.

Allen's skills include wheel chair systems, engine tune-up, air conditioning, suspension troubleshooting and repair, transmission repair and rebuild, electrical system diagnosis and repair, pneumatic air systems, brake systems, preventive maintenance, and hydraulic system maintenance. He also is Universal 608 certified and Cummins Insite Software and DDEC/ATEC/WTEC certified. He has completed 336 hours of formal technician training.

Allen holds an Associate's degree in Applied Sciences for Automotive and Diesel Technology from the International Technical Institute and had no sick days in the past year. He had only two reportable accidents in his 17-year career as a bus mechanic.

According to his supervisor, "Jerry is always willing to help. His combination of enthusiasm and troubleshooting skills make him the 'go-to' guy in his division. Jerry views his position as a career, not just a job!"

Congratulations, Jerry!



2nd Place—Jerry Allen, HART, and Mike Johnson, FDOT.

LeeTran's Giardina takes 3rd!

Joseph Giardina from Lee County Transit (Lee Tran) placed third in the 2005 competition. He has an extraordinary 20-year record as a mechanic.

Giardina's skills include engine repair and rebuild, transmission repair and rebuild, electrical trouble shooting and repair, heating and air conditioning diagnostics and repair, drive axle repair and rebuild, GFI farebox diagnostics and repair, steering and suspension diagnostics and repair, wheelchair lift and ramp diagnostics and repair, and welding and fabrication. He is an ASE Certified Master Technician and has completed 296 hours of formal mechanic training.

Giardina participates in the training of new bus operators, and his skills in diagnostic and repair of GFI farebox components have saved LeeTran thousands of dollars compared the cost of contracting the work out to a manufacturer. No accidents have been reported in his 11+ years as a bus mechanic.

"Joseph's technical skills exceed the technical level of any mechanic he's supervised or known," said his supervisor. "He's a good person with a heart of gold!"

Congratulations, Joseph!



3rd Place—Joseph Giardina, Lee Tran, and Mike Johnson, FDOT.



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Visit us online at the FMTP website,
www.cutr.usf.edu/research/fmtp/fmtp.htm

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Palm Tran education/development program under way

Palm Tran has launched a new in-house maintenance education and development program. The program is designed to educate existing technicians and develop their technical skill level, as well as focus on training and evaluating new-hire technician trainees and addressing daily Quality Control issues.

Palm Tran's Superintendent of Training, Chad Engel, is managing the new program and has joined the team of trainers statewide working with the Florida Maintenance Training Program (FMTP) in the development and implementation of the statewide maintenance curriculum. Palm Tran will be a host property for training courses in conjunction with FMTP for technicians at Palm Tran and other properties throughout the state.



International Roadeo date changes

For the first time, the International Bus Roadeo will be conducted as part of the American Public Transportation Association (APTA) Bus & Paratransit Conference. This year's conference will be held in Anaheim, California on April 29th - May 3, 2006. In previous years, the International Roadeo was held in conjunction with APTA's Annual Conference, which is held in the fall.

Because of the change, the Florida State Bus Roadeo will not take place this year, but rather will be held in Spring 2007 in Jacksonville on a date yet to be determined. It is

anticipated that local Bus Roadeo's will be scheduled in the fall or early spring.

Representing Florida at the 2006 International Roadeo will be the first place winners from the 2005 State Bus Roadeo competition, including the Maintenance winners from LYNX in Orlando and the Bus Operator winner from Broward County Transit. Representing Florida at the 2005 International Bus Roadeo competition were the the Maintenance team from VoTran in Volusia County and the Bus Operator from JTA in Jacksonville.

Bus Bits

- In 1900, Mack Truck built the first vehicle described as a "bus," a 20-passenger vehicle, rather than a vehicle with an extended car or truck body with benches.
- In 1923, Fageol produced the first purpose-built highway buses. Yellow Coach produced similar buses the same year.
- In 1925, Mack Truck built an electric motor/generator transmission.
- In 1926, American Body produced an all-metal bus with an aluminum body.
- In 1932, the first rear-engine production bus (Model 700, Type 40) was produced by Yellow Coach.
- In 1934, the first V-drive bus was produced—Yellow Coach Model 718 Type 41.
- Bus body designs have seen generally four major eras:
 - 1920s-early 1930s: Low-Roof, Engine-Forward
 - 1930s-1950s: Old Look
 - 1950s-1970s: New Look
 - 1970s-present: Advanced Designed Bus (ADB)

Fourcade assumes helm at Broward County Transit



Jim Fourcade recently was named Transit Manager of Maintenance for Broward County Transit. He assumed the position due to the recent passing of Ed Dunn.

Fourcade arrives at BCT with a wealth of experience. He served as Chief Maintenance Officer for the Greater Dayton

Regional Transit Authority (GDRTA) in Ohio for the past 10 years, where he was responsible for the development and implementation of the annual fleet plan and for the efficient utilization of human resources for 140 employees, 300 revenue service vehicles, and all associated support equipment. He also was responsible for developing, implementing and supervising changes to maintenance procedures.

Prior to GDRTA, he held a variety of positions at the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) in Washington, D.C. for 20 years, including serving for 2 years as Manager of Bus Maintenance Analysis, Bus Engineering and Maintenance Support.

Fourcade has an in-depth knowledge of vehicles in surface transit operations, support equipment, and facilities. While at GDRTA and WMATA, Fourcade received a number of commendations and awards and certificates of merit.

Born and raised in Washington, D.C., Fourcade relocated to Dayton in the mid-1990s. He has three daughters, two granddaughters and one grandson, is an avid drag racer, and enjoys assisting his younger brother race professionally.

Welcome, Jim!

ASE Public Transit Certification

Automotive Service Excellence (ASE) is a National Institute whose mission is to improve the quality of vehicle repair and service through the testing and certifications of repair and service professionals. In conjunction with APTA Maintenance, Technology and Procurement Committee, NIASE has approved the establishment of certifications for Public Transit Technicians. Over the next five years, 12 test areas will be developed, and two tests will be available this spring--H-4 Electrical/Electronics and H-6 Brakes. Subject

matter experts from around the country are working to develop the tests and study guides to accompany each test area.

The Florida Maintenance Training Program is working with APTA to support the establishment of the Public Transit Technician ASE Certification and will keep you informed of future developments and related activities.

Upcoming Events - Spring 2006

Fuel Options for Florida's Mass Transit Summit—April 13, 2006. For more information, contact Vicki Zambito, zambito@cutr.usf.edu, (813) 974-9763.

APTA International Bus Roadeo—April 29-May 3, 2006, Orange County, CA. For registration information, contact Anitha Tharapatla, (202) 496-4839.

APTA Bus and Paratransit Conference—April 30-May 3, 2006, Orange County, CA. For registration information, contact Heather Rachels, (202) 496-4838.

Florida Paratransit Roadeo—May 5-6, 2006, Daytona Beach, FL. More information forthcoming.

APTA International Rail Roadeo—June 11-14, 2006. For program information, contact Saahir Brewington, (202) 496-4835.

FPTA/FDOT/CUTR, Professional Development Workshop—August 8-10, 2006, Embassy Suites Hotel at USF, Tampa. For more information, contact Molly Buffington, (813) 974-8347.

FPTA Annual Conference & Outdoor Expo—November 5-7, 2006, Palm Beach Marriott Hotel, Palm Beach, FL. For hotel reservations, call (561) 376-2292.