

Making Connections 2017 - 10/26/2017

Check-in/Registration 8:00 - 8:30am

Opening Plenary: 8:45 - 10:00am

Who Will Do the Work? Transit's ongoing challenge to recruit, train and retain its frontline workforce.

Abstract: Labor market data continues to point toward a critical shortage of skilled workers capable of operating and maintaining the public transportation systems of the future. Over a ten year period, transit will need to recruit, train, and retain 125% of its current workforce. That doesn't take into account the huge new investments initiated in several locations to expand capacity. Speakers on this panel will look again at the overall national picture and take us on some deeper looks at how they are involved in specific efforts to address this potential workforce challenge.

AM Breakout Workshops: 10:15 - 11:45am

Topic 1a: Not the Usual Suspects: How to Diversify your Workforce	Topic 2a: Transit Core Competencies Curriculum: The Next Generation: Career Ladders and Pathways into the Public Transportation Workforce	Topic 3a: Industry Training Consortium, Mentorship and On-the-Job Learning: Investing in Frontline Worker Knowledge and Skills
Room: Elm I & II	Room: Magnolia	Room: Persimmon I & II
Abstract: The transportation sector has an immediate need to recruit a new generation of transportation workers as older workers retire. Agencies will need to deploy recruiting strategies that don't just target workers, but attempts to diversify the workforce with the inclusion of women, veterans, and disadvantaged populations. This workshop panel will provide innovative tools and methods to help transportation agencies recruit a diversified workforce.	Abstract: We all know the numbers - public transportation is losing it's workforce much quicker than it is being replenished. Like many industries, we are in the middle of a skills crisis. Fortunately, there are resources out there - including the Center's recently developed and highly popular Transit Core Competencies Curriculum (TC3). Hear from industry experts on how it was developed and used. This will be followed by an open discussion with attendees to see how you see it benefiting your organizations. What would you want out of this program? Where would you use it? How? Audience? In what ways?	Abstract: The frontline vehicle operators and maintainers contribute greatly to accomplishing the goals of each transit agency, with the know-how they've gained through formal training and learning on-the-job. Done right, investment in the frontline knowledge and skills can generate significant returns. In this workshop, we showcase several effective models for frontline training in action: Joint development of national standards-based courseware by transportation agencies across the U.S. (training consortia), workplace mentoring, and On-the-Job Learning. We will also share best practices for proving the value of frontline workforce training.

Lunch Plenary: 12:00 - 1:30pm

A Vision for the Future of Transportation: Re-imagining Transportation for the 21st Century

Abstract: Re-imagining transportation for the 21st century. Public transportation has the potential to re-shape how cities and regions function. Los Angeles, as an example, has moved to expand transit options dramatically in a way that can reduce dependence on cars in Southern California. At the same time, transit faces challenges from ride sharing and on-demand services that are expanding dramatically. Research and partial implementation of autonomous vehicles pose yet new challenges. This panel will take a broad look at the challenges and opportunities with a particular eye toward what these trends mean for the frontline workforce. How does public transportation stay not only relevant but ahead of the game through continued investment in a skilled and innovative workforce?

PM Breakout Workshops: 1:45 - 3:15pm

Topic 1b: Training for New Technologies	Topic 2b: Registered Apprenticeship: The How and the Why	Topic 3b: Partnerships in Safety and Health
Room: Elm I & II	Room: Magnolia	Room: Persimmon I & II
Abstract: We are all familiar with scenarios where, even though training should be a top priority it is in fact the last priority of an organization. This culture, unfortunately, is even more apparent in situations of new technologies which are imposed by government mandates. Be prepared when your organization meets these pressures by attending this session where panelists will discuss lessons learned when designing, developing and implementing training for new technologies such as Positive Train Control, Track Circuit technologies, etc. The main lesson - don't treat training as an afterthought.	Abstract: With the newly signed executive order from President Trump, Registered Apprenticeship has quickly become a bipartisan push from the federal government. As agencies are addressing their workforce shortage needs, apprenticeship is a way to "grow your own". This workshop panel will be an informative session that will introduce participants to the different apprenticeship models, the apprenticeship registration process, and the funding available for registered apprenticeships. It will also highlight a program that has been through the development, implementation and apprenticeship registration process.	Abstract: Safety and health in the transit work environment depends on management commitment and worker involvement. Other partners such as oversight agencies, technical consultants, equipment manufacturers, and researchers also contribute to the success of workplace health or safety initiatives. These partnerships are promoted by the FTA, by OSHA, and by other transit and safety organizations. The goal of this session is to define the structure of successful labor-management partnerships, and to recognize the roles of other contributors. Panelists and participants will describe their experience with innovative approaches, successful safety partnerships at the transit agency and national levels, and barriers they have encountered. The focus will be on workplace safety and health, but will also address workers' roles in Safety Management Systems and employee health concerns.

Closing Plenary: 3:30 - 4:00pm

Where Do We Go From Here?

Abstract: It's been a full day of good workshops and exciting plenary presentations. Each of us has met a lot of people who share our concerns. How do we take the excitement and energy of today and channel that toward ongoing efforts to improve transit systems, transit jobs and opportunities for our communities?

Jack's remarks 4:00pm

Jack Clark - Executive Director, Transportation Learning Center

Evening Reception

4:30 - 6:30