

Transportation Careers or What I Did on My Summer Vocation



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Learning should never end, particularly if you're a teacher. And when five Los Angeles-area educators joined the WTS-LA/Exposition Metro Line Construction Authority (EXPO) pilot program *Summer Externship for Educators*, they learned lessons that will last their students a lifetime. "I had no idea of the extent of what is already in place, and better yet, what is to be," explained Mike Maderosian, a computer technology instructor for the Montebello School District in talking about transportation opportunities. "Exposure to career possibilities would be of the greatest value for my students." The program introduces Los Angeles-area educators to transportation careers through field visits, tours, and meetings with EXPO staff and consultants. It is intense, intimate, and indelible.

A companion to WTS-LA's Adopt-a-School Program, Summer Externship for Educators is the brainchild of WTS-LA Special Advisor to the President and retired Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) Administrator Emilie Gino. A veteran educator who created curricula for successful career academies within the LAUSD system, Gino believes that academics need a taste of real-world possibilities to better understand and communicate opportunities to students. She is right. And so successful was her program design that *Mass Transit* magazine featured it in the article "*Pilot Program Shows Career in Transportation May be the Ticket.*" WTS-LA plans to expand the program each year.



Learning should never end. And thanks to WTS-LA's Summer Externship for Educators, teachers are learning vital lessons that will last their students a lifetime.