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Transportation Learning Center Launches New Competency-Based Curriculum for Transit Occupations

- Working with transportation subject matter experts to identify skill sets and knowledge for frontline workers
- Linking personal effectiveness and academic competencies with transit and transportation care knowledge
- Developing Registered Apprenticeships and pre-apprenticeships for frontline workers in public transportation

Introduction

Keep the trains running on time? It's not as easy as it sounds. As current workers retire and transit systems continue to expand and grow, the public transportation industry needs a skilled new workforce to fill the jobs becoming available now and into the next decade.

The Transportation Learning Center (TLC), an industry champion in the development of the U.S. Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration's (ETA) Transportation, Distribution, and Logistics (TDL) Competency Model, has responded to that challenge. TLC is working with labor and management subject matter experts, as well as educators and trainers involved in workforce development and career and technical education, to develop the Transit Core Competencies Curriculum (TC3). The initiative is designed to reach out to young people and adults in the communities public transportation serves, introduce them to frontline career opportunities, and provide them with the baseline knowledge and skills to succeed in the industry.

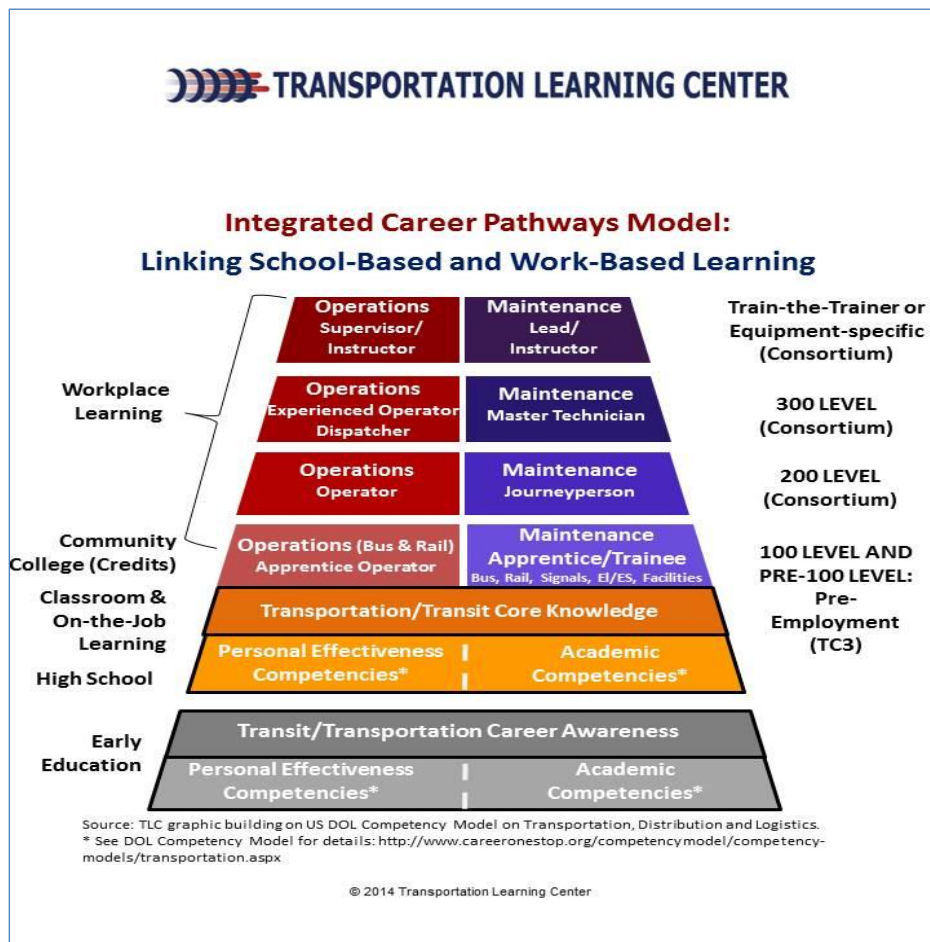
The Workforce Need

According to a joint report issued by the Departments of Transportation, Education, and Labor, "Strengthening Skills Training and Career Pathways across the Transportation Industry," employers will need to hire and train a total of 4.6 million new workers – 1.2 times the current transportation workforce – due to expected growth, retirements and turnover in the transportation industry from 2012 to 2022. Projections suggest that 417,000 of these positions will be created as a direct result of increased demand on our transportation systems. The highest percentage of hiring demand will be in transit and ground passenger transportation.¹

Approach

"Our goal in developing the TC3 is to reach people in the communities that are served by mass transit," says Pat Greenfield, Senior Program Director, Workforce Education, TLC. "We used ETA's TDL Competency Model to identify what levels of learning were needed to create a bridge between Academic and Personal Effectiveness Competencies and Transportation/Transit Core Knowledge."

¹ <https://www.transportation.gov/us-departments-transportation-education-and-labor-release-joint-transportation-jobs-report>



“With funding from the Federal Transit Administration, we are working with subject matter experts from across the country to put together a multiple-module curriculum based on our own experience with frontline transit workers,” says Xinge Wang, Deputy Director, TLC. “We are developing instructor-ready coursework for these modules for transit agencies, community colleges and career and technical education secondary schools. A significant portion of the TC3 will be developed and piloted by August 2017.”

Next Steps

Working in partnership with industry associations, unions, state apprenticeship agencies, workforce development boards, community colleges, career and technical education organizations and other national nonprofits, TLC is implementing an industry-wide project to develop, establish, and expand Registered Apprenticeship programs for frontline workers in public transportation. “We are developing complete national frameworks for Registered Apprenticeships in five transit frontline occupations — Elevator - Escalator Technician, Signals Technician, Rail Car Technician, Bus Maintenance Technician, and Transit Coach Operator—in over two dozen locations across the country,” says Jack Clark, Executive Director, TLC. “TLC is looking for TC3 to become a pre-apprenticeship program. We are working with ETA’s Office of Apprenticeship and the Urban Institute to develop apprenticeships that are tied to competencies rather than time-based.”

Related Links

Transportation Learning Center

www.transportcenter.org

Strengthening Skills Training and Career Pathways Across the Transportation Industry

https://s3.amazonaws.com/PCRN/docs/Strengthening_Skills_Training_and_Career_Pathways_Across_Transportation_Industry_Data_Report.pdf