



APPLY TODAY!

FDOT, CUTR, and TWC Announce Bus Operator and Transit Technician Apprenticeship Academy

JANUARY 30-31, 2024

The Florida Department of Transportation's Statewide Transit Training and Technical Assistance Program managed in partnership with the Center for Urban Transportation Research (CUTR) have teamed up with the Federal Transit Administration's technical assistance center for workforce development, the Transit Workforce Center (TWC) to host an Apprenticeship Academy, January 30-31, 2024, at CUTR in Tampa, Florida.

WHY AN **APPRENTICESHIP ACADEMY?**

Transit agencies throughout Florida and across the country are struggling to maintain a full complement of bus operators and technicians, as senior workers with a wealth of experience retire in great numbers. In addition, the skills needed to operate and maintain transit buses have become increasingly complex over recent years. To meet these and other workforce challenges, many agencies are "growing their own workforce" through time tested and proven mentoring and registered apprenticeship programs.

WHAT WILL WE GET FROM **PARTICIPATION?**

The Apprenticeship Academy is intended to assist Florida agencies with existing apprenticeships, as well as those with a serious interest in developing their own apprenticeship programs. Following a review of pre-Academy materials and presentations from experts on apprenticeship development, implementation, and benefits, participants will break into groups to explore in greater depth the steps needed to build operator and maintenance apprenticeship programs, including:

- ▶ Forming a joint apprenticeship committee
- ▶ Establishing contact with local workforce board for potential funding opportunities
- ▶ Establishing contact with regional representative from the Florida Department of Education, Office of Apprenticeship
- ▶ Instituting a strong mentoring program
- ▶ Developing an apprenticeship agreement with corresponding work process schedule
- ▶ Creating education and workforce development partnerships
- ▶ Accessing funding available for registered apprenticeship programs
- ▶ Recruiting apprentices
- ▶ Launching the apprenticeship program
- ▶ Maintaining the apprenticeship program

WHO SHOULD ATTEND **THE ACADEMY?**

To get the most out of the Academy, join us with a team of individuals knowledgeable about bus driver and/or maintenance work and training with the level of responsibility necessary to move an apprenticeship program forward. Because apprenticeship programs are jointly run, your team should have representatives from management and the frontline workforce (or, in a union environment, union leaders familiar with the work).



If your agency is interested in *both bus operator and bus technician apprenticeship*, make sure you bring a team of at least four, so that representatives from labor and management can participate in both tracks.



If your agency is interested in *either bus operator or bus technician apprenticeship*, make sure you bring at least a team of two.

REGISTRATION **DEADLINE**

Apply by **December 8, 2023**. Space is limited.

The Apprenticeship Academy will accept a maximum of 30 participants, in order to ensure a quality experience for all. For additional information or to express an interest in participating, contact Stephanie Lewis, zavacki@usf.edu.

TRAVEL **REIMBURSEMENT**

There is no travel reimbursement available for the Academy. All travel related expenses are that of the traveler or their agency.



USF is an Equal Opportunity/Equal Access Institution. For disability accommodations, please contact Molly Buffington at buffington@usf.edu a minimum of ten (10) working days in advance to the training session.