



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

NEWS

URBAN MASS TRANSPORTATION ADMINISTRATION

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Twenty-eight unemployed aerospace and defense industry professionals are attending a 12-week job reorientation course in urban transportation planning being sponsored by the U. S. Department of Transportation.

The course, conducted by the University of Southern California (USC) under the sponsorship of the Department's Urban Mass Transportation Administration (UMTA), has a two-fold purpose, according to UMTA Administrator Carlos C. Villarreal.

"President Nixon has asked Secretary Volpe and me to provide career redirection opportunities for professionals of the aerospace and defense industries who have been displaced from their jobs due to a recent re-ordering of our national programs," Administrator Villarreal said. "This course will make trained people available to meet our second goal -- to provide trained professionals to meet the increasing need for urban transportation planners."

The retraining, conducted by the USC's Department of Urban and Regional Planning, includes classroom lectures, workshop sessions and intensive simulation exercises to acquaint participants with what they can expect to encounter in their new career field.

Of 19 people who attended a similar course at the University of Washington last summer, most are now employed in various positions in the field of urban transportation.

This year's second session participants were selected from among hundreds of Los Angeles area unemployed professionals seeking new job opportunities, Administrator Villarreal said.

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A grant of \$66,863 has been made available by UMTA for this program. The Department of Labor is adding another \$35,000 to provide stipends for the participants. After preliminary screening, the final 28 course participants were picked on the basis of their personal interviews.

The U. S. Department of Labor, through the President's Technology, Mobilization and Reemployment Program, is participating with the Department of Transportation by providing financial support to the participants while they take the course. The Labor Department also is providing support services for the selection of participants, course counseling and job placement service.

These support services are being performed by staff members of the National Society of Professional Engineers. The Society has been under contract to the Department of Labor to help re-employ unemployed professionals.

Administrator Villarreal said UMTA is making more funds available -- \$33 million this fiscal year -- "to provide Government funding for urban transportation planning and study projects across the Nation. We expect the groups doing this work will have need for professionals with this type of training."

Equipped with a concentrated 12-week study of urban transportation and seasoned by years of varied administrative, management and professional experience, the participants offer a maturity to handle new careers in urban transportation, the Administrator said.

Call the USC at 213-746-2264, or the UMTA Office of University Research & Training at 202-426-0080, to obtain more information on the participants or to arrange for resumes and interviews. (UMTA Project No. CA-11-0010)