

ACCELERATE

FALL 2013

The quarterly newsletter for
the Conference Of Minority
Transportation Officials

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Rev. Jesse Jackson with CITY Interns
during the National Meeting & Training Conference

Investing in Tomorrow's Future:

COMTO CITY Interns and National Scholars

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

COMTO Family,

I can hardly believe 2013 is coming to a close. When I think about our many accomplishments this year, the one that I would put at the top of the list and that will yield lasting returns for decades to come is the work we do as an organization to identify, attract, and recruit the next generation of transportation professionals.

Under the leadership of **Tracey Bessellieu** and **Raynard Hughes**, Co-Chairs of the National Scholars Committee, and **Col. Jim Paige**, Program Manager for the **Careers In Transportation for Youth (CITY) Program**, along with the tremendous support of our chapters across the country, we have more than "walked the talk" in terms of investing in our future.

Several of our corporate partners have continued their unwavering and long-term support of the National Scholars Program; among them are **Atkins**, **LTK Engineering**, and **Parsons Brinkerhoff**.

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) has funded the CITY Program for eight consecutive years, and this year, FTA Administrator **Peter Rogoff** committed to three additional years. Special thanks to **Rita Daguillard** and **Betty Jackson** (both FTA) for their leadership and support in administering this program.

Included in this issue of *Accelerate* are a few highlights from the CITY Program. Please consider contributing to the National Scholars Program at **www.comto.org** or send by mail to:

National Scholars Program
1875 I Street NW, Suite 500
Washington, DC 20006

Thanks for your continued support and commitment to COMTO. Have a joyous and safe holiday season.

Warm regards,



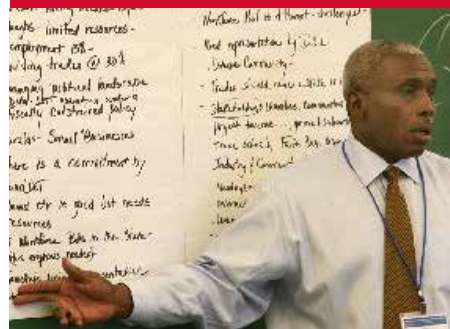
Julie Cunningham
President & Chief Executive Officer



Tracey Bessellieu
Co-Chair
National Scholars Committee



Raynard Hughes
Co-Chair
National Scholars Committee



Col. Jim Paige
Program Manager
CITY Interns



Left to right: **Frank T. Martin**, Secretary/Treasurer, COMTO National Board of Directors; **Keith Parker**, General Manager & CEO, Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority; **Debra Carter**, COMTO National Board Advisor; **Freddie Fuller**, At-Large Member, COMTO National Board of Directors; **Emille Williams**, Council of Presidents Representative to COMTO National Board of Directors; **Julie Cunningham**, President & CEO, COMTO National; U.S. Secretary of Transportation **Anthony Foxx**, U.S. Department of Transportation; **Robert H. Prince, Jr.**, Chair, COMTO National Board of Directors; **Warren Montague**, 1st Vice Chair, COMTO National Board of Directors; **Renee Edwards**, Council of Presidents Representative to COMTO National Board of Directors; **Lester Woods, Jr.**, 2nd Vice Chair, COMTO National Board of Directors; **Dr. Dianne Mendoza**, At-Large Member, COMTO National Board of Directors; **Dr. Adiele Nwankwo**, At-Large Member, COMTO National Board of Directors; **Joseph Erves**, Council of Presidents Alternate to COMTO National Board of Directors; **Brad Mims**, COMTO National Board Advisor

COMTO Welcomes U.S. Secretary of Transportation Foxx

U.S. Secretary of Transportation Anthony Foxx was the keynote speaker at the CBCF/COMTO 21st Annual Transportation Braintrust held September 19. The theme of the Braintrust was “Transportation Infrastructure: Big Opportunities for Small Businesses.” The **Honorable Elijah Cummings**, who represents Maryland’s 7th District in Congress and serves on the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Transportation and

Infrastructure, was the official host. The **Honorable Rodney Slater**, former Transportation Secretary, was in attendance. “This year’s Braintrust helped bring attention to how small businesses can best position themselves to compete for large-scale transportation projects,” said **Robert H. Prince Jr.**, Chair of the COMTO National Board of Directors.

U.S. Transportation Secretary Foxx Announces \$474 Million for 52 TIGER 2013 Projects in 37 States

U.S. Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx announced that 52 transportation projects in 37 states will receive a total of approximately \$474 million from the U.S. Department of Transportation’s (DOT) Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) 2013 discretionary grant program. Among these, 25 projects funded at \$123.4 million will be designated for projects in rural areas of the country.

\$474 million set aside for the program. In all, DOT received 585 applications from all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and Guam.

“These transformational TIGER projects are the best argument for investment in our transportation infrastructure,” said Secretary Foxx. “Together, they support President Obama’s call to ensure a stronger transportation system for future generations by repairing existing infrastructure, connecting people to new jobs and opportunities, and contributing to our nation’s economic growth.”

The projects funded through this round of TIGER illustrate the President’s goals of creating “ladders of opportunity,” the need for a “fix it first” approach to infrastructure, and contributing to America’s economic growth. On March 26, 2013, the President signed the FY 2013 Appropriations Act, which after sequestration provided approximately \$474 million for Department of Transportation national infrastructure investments. Like the first four rounds, TIGER 2013 grants are for capital investments in infrastructure and are awarded on a competitive basis based on the published selection criteria. This is the fifth round of TIGER funding.

The highly competitive TIGER program offers one of the only federal funding possibilities for large, multi-modal projects that often are not suitable for other federal funding sources. These federal funds leverage money from private sector partners, states, local governments, metropolitan planning organizations, and transit agencies. The 2013 TIGER round alone supports \$1.8 billion in overall project investments.

Under all five rounds combined, the TIGER program has provided more than \$3.6 billion to 270 projects in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico. Demand for the program outweighed available funds, and during all five rounds, the Department of Transportation received more than 5,200 applications requesting more than \$114.2 billion for transportation projects across the country.

TIGER has enjoyed overwhelming demand since its creation, a trend continued by TIGER 2013. Applications for this most recent round of grants totaled more than \$9 billion, far exceeding the

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Transportation website: www.dot.gov

COMTO NATIONAL

CALENDAR

NOVEMBER

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 11

Veterans Day

COMTO thanks our veteran members for their service to our country.

COMTO Week

COMTO National encourages each chapter to select its preferred week in November to host COMTO Week activities, which are designed to create brand awareness in the local area and to increase membership.

2014

FEBRUARY

Garrett A. Morgan Day

Garrett A. Morgan Shadow Day is a national event held by COMTO chapters on a day of their choosing, where they partner with local schools to bring awareness to transportation safety and career opportunities.

MARCH

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 12

Celebrating Women Who Move the Nation Awards Breakfast

8:00 am – 10:30 am
J.W. Marriott
1331 Pennsylvania Avenue N.W.
Washington, D.C.

JULY

SATURDAY, JULY 12 –
WEDNESDAY, JULY 16

COMTO 43rd Annual National Meeting & Training Conference

Atlanta Marriott Marquis
Atlanta, Georgia

SEPTEMBER

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 18

CBCF/COMTO 22nd Annual Transportation Braintrust

Walter E. Washington
Convention Center
Washington, D.C.

Julie Cunningham to Participate in National Active Transportation Diversity Task Force

COMTO President and CEO Julie Cunningham will participate in the National Active Transportation Diversity Task Force. The task force, a key part of a strategy to advance shared use agreements nationwide, will convene a broad array of experts and practitioners from around the country to engage in a national conversation and support outreach that elevates street-scale improvements from a local issue to a state and national issue.

The purpose of the task force is to guide work on the street-scale component for **Voices for Healthy Kids: Active Places**. The partnership will help states and local communities with Safe Routes to School, implementation of the federal transportation bill MAP-21, complete streets, and secure new funding to support active transportation in the communities that need it most.

The Safe Routes to School National Partnership is pleased to play a leadership role with Voices for Healthy Kids, a collaborative partnership between the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the American Heart Association that seeks to reverse childhood obesity by 2015 through proven research and advocacy strategies. As part of its work on Voices for Healthy Kids: Active Places, the partnership focuses on advancing shared (or joint) use agreements and street-scale improvements in underserved communities to create more opportunities for physical activity.

Continued Collaboration between COMTO and APTA

COMTO and the American Public Transportation Association (APTA) have continued the strong and effective collaboration to effect change in the U.S. Department of Transportation's Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Program. Late in 2012, the two organizations co-hosted an assembly to solicit the input of the DBE community. Members of both COMTO and APTA gathered via teleconferences and face-to-face to discuss key concerns as well as brainstorm solutions to the various challenges experienced by DBEs.

From the discussion, emerged three primary areas for which COMTO and APTA joined forces to co-host roundtable and panel discussion. Two of the panels were hosted at APTA conferences, and a third was held at the COMTO annual conference. The three areas of discussion were: 1) mentor-protégé programs; 2) prompt payments to subcontractors; and 3) the role of a transit board member with respect to DBE programs.

In addition, COMTO and APTA jointly responded in a letter to **U.S. Secretary of Transportation Anthony Foxx** regarding a report published by the U.S. Office of Inspector General on weaknesses identified in the DBE Program. **COMTO President and CEO Julie Cunningham** stated, "We certainly extend huge thanks to **Michael Melaniphy, APTA President and CEO**, for the heightened partnership between our two organizations. Together we have gained tremendous momentum on behalf of the DBE community — and there's more to come." ●

For Local Events & Activities
go to: www.comto.org

COMTO USA

Chapters Continue to Support National Scholars Program

CENTRAL FLORIDA

Holds Bowl-a-Thon to Raise Funds for Scholarships

COMTO Central Florida held its 3rd Annual Bowl-a-Thon to raise funds for scholarships. The Bowl-a-Thon is just one of the events held by the Central Florida Chapter in support of COMTO's National Scholarship Program. The chapter continues to promote COMTO's mission by increasing awareness and education throughout Central Florida.



Carla Williams and Sabina Mohammad at COMTO Central Florida's 3rd Annual Bowl-a-Thon

COLORADO STATE

Holds Annual Golf Tournament

COMTO Colorado State held its 8th Annual Golf Tournament at Fossil Trace Golf Course in Golden, Colorado. One hundred and thirty-five golfers participated in the tournament, which raised slightly more than \$12,000 to be distributed as scholarships to seven students pursuing careers in transportation.



Dan Pearsall with Kiewit players

MARYLAND

Enjoys an Active Year

COMTO Maryland has had a busy 2013. The chapter sponsored a social media workshop entitled "Social Media for Career Development and Small Business." Presentations were made by **Sandy Dobson**, Deputy Director of the Office of Customer Relations and Information Technology, and **Jessica Puchala**, Web Content and Social Media Coordinator of the State Highway Administration.

In addition to the workshop, the chapter awarded its Ronald L. Freeland Scholarship to two students. Congratulations to **Cadeem L. Franklin**, a University of Maryland student, who won first prize, and **Ghadah Hussein**, a student at Loyola College of Maryland, who won second prize.



Left to right: **Louis Jones**, Master of Ceremonies for COMTO Maryland's Social Media Workshop; **Mike Rice**, Chapter Board Member; **Adrienne Barnes**, Chapter President; **Keith Scroggins**, former Chapter President and current Board Member

NEW YORK

Hosts Annual Scholarship Fundraiser Dinner

COMTO New York held an Autumn Moon Festival scholarship fundraiser dinner, complete with a magician, moon cakes, live singing, and a ten-course banquet. Invited guests included **Congresswoman Grace Meng**, **Councilman Peter Koo**, **Manhattan Borough President Scott Stringer** and **Council Member Margaret Chin**. The festival was held at the Golden Mandarin Court in New York City.



COMTO New York

DIVERSITY IN MOTION



Nuria Fernandez

A long-time executive at transportation agencies in New York, Washington, D.C. and Chicago, was named General Manager of the Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) in Santa Clara County, California. Fernandez, who is of Jamaican descent and was born in Panama, became the first woman and first person

of color to head the agency, which oversees transit and highway operations. She will have responsibility for bringing Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART) to the South Bay. She will succeed **Michael Burns**, who is retiring at the end of the year after running the VTA since 2005.



Anthony Johnson

The Fort Worth Transportation Authority (The T) announced that **Anthony ("Tony") Johnson**, Executive VP and Chief Operating Officer (COO) of The T, will serve as Interim President and Executive Director during board's search to replace **Dick Ruddell** who retired on October 4. Johnson has more than 20 years of

experience in public transportation. He began his career with The T in 1991 as Director of Operations for all aspects of bus operations. Prior to his interim responsibilities of President, Johnson served as Executive VP and COO.



Helen McSwain

Transit and Rail Program Director at Atkins, was recently one of seven individuals in North America named Worldwide Medalists to receive the Sir William Atkins Award, named in honor of the company's founder. McSwain, of Atlanta, Georgia, was nominated by **Gardner Chambliss** for her staunch commitment to the community and mission of the Atkins Foundation.



Joe Rivers

Former Chatham County (Savannah, GA) Commissioner, long-time Chatham Area Transit (CAT) Board Member, and Interim Executive Director of CAT, has had the new intermodal transit center named for him. It is called the Joe Murray Rivers Jr. Intermodal Transit Center and is located at the western perimeter

of the Downtown Historic District. The transit center serves Savannah bus patrons as a new transfer point between routes. The passenger transfer platform accommodates fourteen CAT buses simultaneously. In addition, four bays,

located separately from the CAT platform, are provided for Greyhound passengers. CAT and Greyhound will share the lobby, but each has its own ticket counter and administrative support areas. Congratulations, Joe!



Paul Toliver

MV Transportation has signed a contract with the City of Detroit's Department of Transportation to provide transportation management services for up to two years. Leading MV's management team is **Paul Toliver**, formerly CEO of King County, Washington's Department of Transportation and General Manager of Seattle Metro.



Luther Diggs

Former Assistant General Manager of Operations at Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority (SEPTA), has also joined the MV team and will serve as Chief of Maintenance.

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TCRP AMBASSADOR

Maria-Teresa Roman Enjoys Her Role as Teacher and Student



Maria-Teresa Roman is used to talking with people about transportation. As a Government and Community Relations Officer for the Chicago Transit Authority, the nation's second largest transit system, she is frequently in the community talking with politicians, police, schools, and faith-based organizations. So, adding the role of Ambassador for the Transit Cooperative

Research Program (TCRP) to her repertoire comes naturally.

"This is such a jewel of a program," says Roman, who travels across the country to various conferences. As one of 18 TCRP Ambassadors, she is charged with helping her peers understand the full scope of TCRP-sponsored research, including the latest developments in advanced technologies, innovative management techniques, and best operating practices. "I am meeting folks from all walks of life."

At a recent conference in North Carolina, Roman met someone who works primarily in the field with limited access to the online materials that "so many of us enjoy." In her role as Ambassador, she is able to ask questions to learn more about the operational needs of smaller systems and help guide them to the best research. "Why reinvent the wheel if you don't have to?"

As a TCRP Ambassador, Roman gets to continue the two loves of her former career as a history and Spanish teacher: to help educate and to be a student herself. It is the primary reason she wanted to be an ambassador, to expand her own knowledge base and to network.

"What I get to see and what I am able to show others is how diverse this industry is. There are potentially 110 things within any given specialty. It is phenomenal," she says.

Active in her community as well, Roman is former President of COMTO Chicago; Co-Chair of The Taste of Clemente Fundraiser; member of the 2nd Legislative District's Health Fair Advisory Board; and a member of the Hispanic Advisory Board of the State's Attorney's office.

ABOUT TCRP:

TCRP is a joint effort between the American Public Transportation Association, COMTO, and the Federal Transit Administration. COMTO manages the Ambassador Program.

TCRP research products, such as reports, syntheses, and legal digests, are available online as well as in hard copy. There is no cost to request or download reports. Search and download at www.comto.org.

DID YOU KNOW?

- In 2012, Americans took 10.5 billion trips on public transportation, the 2nd highest annual ridership number since 1957.
- 35 million times each weekday, people board public transportation.
- From 1995 through 2012, public transportation ridership increased by 34%—a growth rate higher than the 17% increase in U.S. population and higher than the 22% growth in the use of the nation's highways over the same period.
- Public transportation is a \$57 billion industry that employs nearly 400,000 people.
- More than 7,300 organizations provide public transportation in the United States.
- 74% of public funding for public transit is spent creating and supporting hundreds of thousands of private sector jobs.

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INVESTING IN TOMORROW'S FUTURE

COMTO CITY INTERNS

AND NATIONAL SCHOLARS

The CITY Internship Program, a unique partnership between COMTO and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA), is designed to attract and bring the best and brightest young talent of underrepresented to the transportation industry. Retired **Col. Jim Paige**, Program Manager, described the 10-week internship as “sipping from a fire hose,” with lots of mentoring, networking, listening, and learning to lead. “The closing ceremony is a commencement — marking each intern’s official welcome to the industry,” he added. During closing ceremonies in each city, industry leaders from every level attended to wish the interns well and to admonish them to “keep in touch.”

Not that long ago, CITY Intern **Jarren Williams** considered quitting school. Swinging his arms back and forth, nervous, yet proud and determined to speak, the Morgan State University senior said he had been “around a lot of negativity” his whole life. In April a dear friend passed away. Wavering and unsure what to do, Jarren heard about the CITY Internship Program from a classmate. He applied and was selected. “My whole world changed,” he said during closing ceremonies for the COMTO Maryland/COMTO Washington D.C. interns.

“The CITY internship has revitalized my perspective on working. I’m not nervous about the workforce. I’m motivated and anxious to become a young professional.” An engineering major, Jarren interned at Maryland’s Transit Administration. “The internship and the people associated with it, have done more for me in these few weeks than most people have done in a lifetime.” For the first time ever, Jarren says he felt so much positive energy and was treated with respect. He is thrilled beyond words that **Denver Regional Transit General Manager Phil Washington** agreed to be his mentor. He also noted how, in such a short time, 18 people — the 2013 class of CITY interns — went from strangers to feeling more like family.

Alexandra Westerband, a University of Arizona junior, described her internship at the FTA headquarters in Washington, D.C. as her first “real job.” A triple major, one of which is French, Alexandra translated an FTA report from French into English. She, too, noted the special “bond” formed with fellow interns. Speaking at the District of Columbia’s Department of Transportation during the joint COMTO Maryland/COMTO Washington D.C. ceremony, Alexandra said, “This experience has honestly changed my life. I worked some of the hardest I have ever worked. This internship has taught me not to take things for granted, for which I am so, so grateful.”

In an emotionally charged moment, Columbia University senior **Mycheal Crafton**’s little sister ran to hug her big brother as he received his certificate during New York’s closing ceremony. His mother, beaming with pride, stood beside him. “This has been the greatest experience of my life,” he said. “It gave me a chance to learn about myself,” he told everyone in attendance at New York City Transit headquarters. Mycheal, a civil engineering major, interned at CH2MHill.

Selected to intern in Philadelphia at FTA, **Jonathan Martinez**, a senior majoring in Civil and Environmental Engineering at Rowan University, Glassboro, N.J. could just as easily worked in New York City. He interviewed with COMTO chapters in both cities. Martinez reflected, “I gained a lot of experience. This internship has been incredible. I had the opportunity to use my communication skills.”

Soft skills are equally important to one’s area of expertise in the industry, if not more so,” notes **Jacqueline Burrell, COMTO**, who provides administrative assistance to the program. **Charles Cave, COMTO Houston**, agreed. “We really stress listening and other communication skills,” he said. COMTO Houston hosted CITY interns last year under Cave’s guidance.

During the joint COMTO Maryland/COMTO Washington D.C. closing ceremony, **FTA Deputy Administrator Therese McMillan** noted that 50 percent of today’s workforce is eligible to retire. That is a potential bubble of knowledge and experience moving on and one that the industry cannot afford this, she stressed, adding that is why programs like this are vital to developing a 21st century workforce. A lot of skills sets will be needed for the industry, she said. “It’s easy to develop a passion for this industry when we realize how we touch people. Transportation touches everyone, every day.”

Also attending the closing ceremony was former Assistant Secretary for Administration, **U.S. Department of Transportation Linda Washington**. “These interns are our future,” she said. “This program is so well run, companies want to participate,” she added.

As in years past, several interns received job offers and/or additional internship opportunities as a result of their performance. “Our corporate partners and stakeholders recognize the program’s value,” noted **COMTO President and CEO Julie Cunningham**. “This is workforce development at its finest. Our future is in good hands.”



MEET OUR INTERNS

ATLANTA

1. **Devonte Ferrell**
Civil Engineering
State University
2. **Justin Harris**
Economics, Africana Studies
Cornell University
3. **Chantae Isabell**
Business
Clark Atlanta
4. **Lawayne Long**
Business
Clark Atlanta

BALTIMORE

5. **Jarren Williams**
Electrical Engineering
Morgan State University

DALLAS

6. **Aspen Chandler**
Developmental Sociology
Cornell University
7. **Dejaunae Smith**
History
Texas Southern

DENVER

8. **William Carter**
Business, Management Info
Systems
University of New Mexico
9. **Amanda Mascarenas**
Civil Engineering
Colorado School of Mines

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

10. **Aubrey Buckner**
Electrical Engineering
Virginia Commonwealth
11. **John-Thomas Malachi**
Japanese Studies/
International Business
Hawaii University
12. **Alexandra Westerband**
French, Communications
University of Arizona

NEW YORK

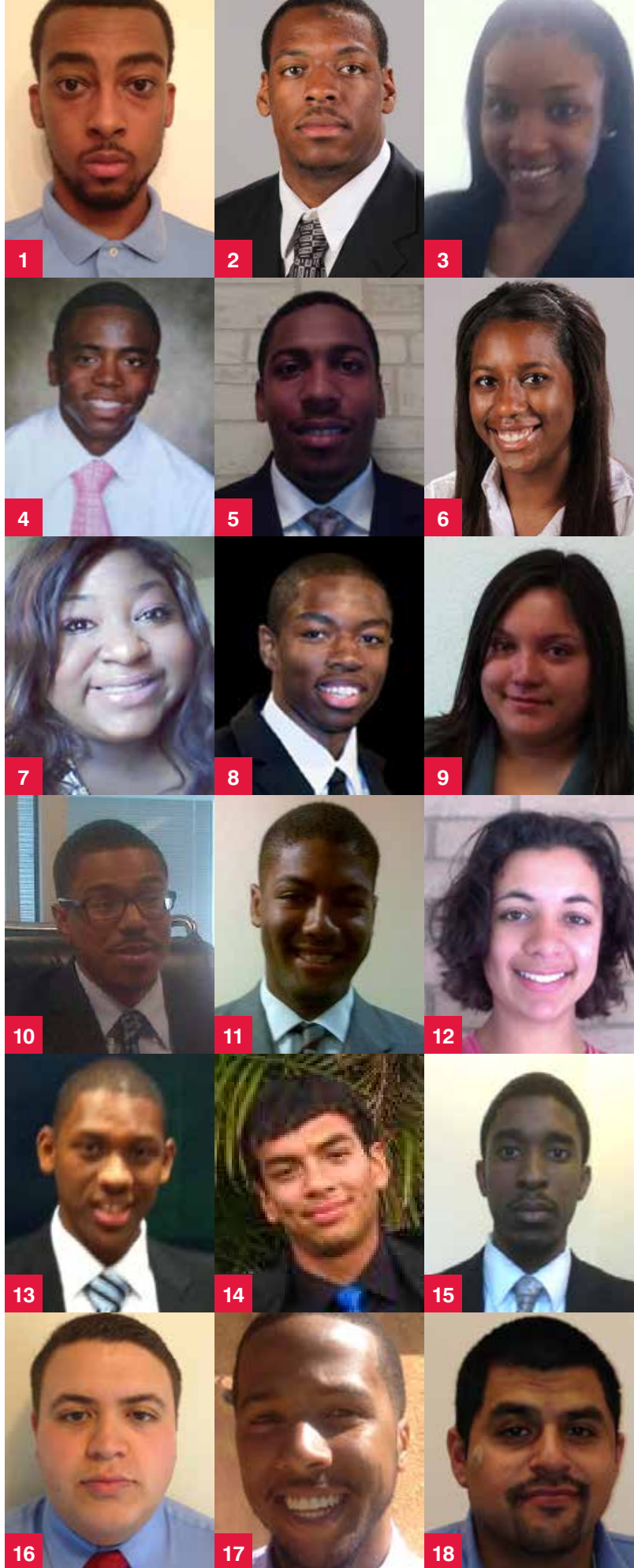
13. **Mycheal Crafton**
Civil Engineering
Columbia University
14. **David Sanchez**
Economics
Boston University

PHILADELPHIA

15. **Desmon Hickson**
Computer Engineering
Temple University
16. **Jonathan Martinez**
Civil & Environmental
Engineering
Rowan University

SAN FRANCISCO

17. **Philip Lang**
Sociology
Morehouse
18. **Adrian Quiroz**
Civil & Environmental
Engineering
UC Berkley



A Partnership Initiative to Develop the Next Generation of Leaders for the Transportation Industry

CITYALUM News & Notes October 2013

The Mentoring Continues: Our Time at APTA

BY 2013 CITY INTERNS – Aspen Chandler and David Sanchez

The CITY Intern program continues to mentor us. At the gracious invitation of **Mr. Michael P. Melaniphy**, President and CEO of the **American Public Transportation Association (APTA)**, we attended the APTA conference in Chicago, September 28–30. We were fortunate, pleased and honored to be selected by our COMTO CITY Program Leadership to represent the 2013 CITY Intern Class. The entire experience was simply great!



Talking before our flight and again in the cab ride to our hotel, we were struck by the wonderful opportunity and responsibility our selection afforded us. We were on the brink of a weekend of making impressions personally, professionally and for the CITY Program and meeting important individuals — yet another life changing experience and a weekend we would never forget.

Saturday, upon arriving, we met with our COMTO supervisor and mentor, **Ms. Renee Edwards**, COMTO Board Member and President, COMTO Dallas and our host, **Ms. Pam Boswell**, Vice President of Workforce Development and Educational Services for APTA. After getting their guidance, we quickly fell into the busy yet pleasant rhythm that carried us through the conference. It was clear that we were no longer at COMTO's National Conference, a highlight moment of our internship, where we knew everyone or felt as if we did.

First up, COMTO President, **Ms. Julie Cunningham**, invited us to join her at APTA's Board of Directors' Luncheon. It was terrific (and somewhat comforting) to see familiar faces from and members of the COMTO family, such as, **Ms. Shirley DeLibero**, former Board Chair, **Mr. Christian Kent** (WMATA), **Mr. Phillip Washington** (RTD-Denver), and **Mr. Keith Parker** (MARTA).

After a brief introduction by Ms. Cunningham, it was our turn to stand before this esteemed audience of industry professionals and give our **"CITY Intern Elevator Speech"**— a concise summary of who we were, what school we attend, and to share what we did over the summer internship.

Aspen | FTA Regional VI | Fort Worth
David | CH2MHill and NY City Transit

Continued...

COMTO
 The APTA family thanks you for the privilege to participate in the outstanding CITY Internship program. We are so pleased to host these amazing students and hope they come away with an even broader understanding of the career opportunities in the transportation sector.



Michael P. Melaniphy
 President & CEO | APTA

COMTO is pleased to partner with APTA to develop the next generation of leaders for our industry. We are especially proud of David, Aspen and all of the CITY Interns. They are all destined to make a difference.



Julie Cunningham
 President & CEO | COMTO

The Mentoring Continues: Our Time at APTA

Continued



Saturday evening was very special. We had dinner and an informal mentoring session with several COMTO Board members leaders to include **Mr. Freddie Fuller**, CUBIC Corporation, **Ms. Renee Edwards**, DART, **Mr. Robert Prince**, AECOM and COMTO Board Chair.

Sunday, we began early with a Mid-Level Managers breakfast. This was more in our comfort zone, in a room with a small group of people, about twenty five. Before the meeting started,

we had the pleasure of speaking and taking pictures with **Mr. Melaniphy** and APTA's new Board Chair, **Mr. Peter Varga**. Mr. Melaniphy told us how impressed he had been with all the CITY interns he had met in Jacksonville during the COMTO Conference and with the internship program as a whole.

We spent the remainder of our time at the conference, as we did at COMTO's National Conference, listening and learning and interacting with various senior leaders. We also had the good fortune to meet with other college students attending the conference, all interested in pursuing careers in transportation.

In sum, having the opportunity to attend the APTA Annual Conference was beneficial to us professionally because it gave us the opportunity to make **even more** face-to-face connections. Being able to talk directly with industry professionals beyond an email or a resume gave us a tremendous advantage for which we can only thank the CITY Internship Program.

Special Thanks to:

- **Mr. Melaniphy** and **Ms. Boswell**, for being such gracious hosts.
- **Ms. Cunningham**, for having the vision to develop the CITY program.
- **Ms. Edwards** for being our designated mentor at the conference; introducing the two of us to her colleagues and especially for providing us with valuable insight into what we can come to expect when entering the transportation industry.
- **Ms. Burrell** and **COL Paige, Program Leaders**, for their leadership and guidance.

AND LASTLY

- **Our fellow 2013 CITY Interns** for allowing us to represent them.

This was a truly amazing opportunity we will never forget. Thanks for the mentoring and the memories.



It is a great pleasure working with Aspen and David. They represent the CITY Program well.

Renee Edwards
Board Member | COMTO



We are very pleased that Aspen was selected to attend the conference. She was an outstanding intern here at FTA

Robert Patrick
Administrator | FTA Region VI



Our interns are simply outstanding and definitely ready to lead our industry.

Bob Prince
Board Chair | COMTO



Aspen and David, we are all very proud of you. Remember to be nimble.

Betty Jackson
CITY Program Manager | FTA



Aspen and David are outstanding young leaders. We expect great things from them in the future.

Freddie Fuller
Board Member | COMTO



A Thank You Note to FTA Administrator Rogoff

August 9, 2013
Administrator Rogoff

Dear Sir,

We want to thank you for your continued support of the CITY Internship Program and COMTO. We understand and have come to appreciate the great working relationship you have with Ms. Cunningham and the COMTO leadership.

We each found this internship to be “life changing.” Our kickoff video conference session and our time with you in Jacksonville was invaluable. Your guidance to us to stay *nimble* continues to resonate with all of us.



Through this internship, we have had the opportunity to meet the industry's finest leaders, all of whom shared their own journeys and offered words of wisdom and encouragement. Jacksonville was a once in a lifetime experience. However, our time with our supervisors proved key for us all. Collectively, we thank each of them for their support and guidance. A very

special thanks to **Ms. McMillan** and your great staff, **Ms. Daguillard** and **Ms. Jackson**, for this wonderful opportunity.

We can honestly say that throughout this 10 week internship, we grew personally and professionally. We learned more about the transportation industry as a viable career path. More importantly, perhaps, we learned some of what it takes to be a leader today.

And finally, we commend you for funding this program for two additional summers, opening the door for many more future leaders to join the industry.

Sincerely,

The 2013 Class
CITY Interns

Where Are They Now?



Denzel Golden | 2012 CITY Intern | WMATA

This program, to me, is not about the actual internship so much as it is about the professional exposure you gain and the mindset you come out of the program holding but more about the mindset you develop.



Amanda Mascarenas | 2012 CITY Intern | Entitlement and Engineering Solutions, Inc.

As a small business owner and COMTO member, we were fortunate to have had Amanda as a CITY Intern for the past 2 years. She was great; we hope she will agree to join our firm as a civil engineer when she graduates this year.

— **Amanda M. O'Connor** | *President* | Entitlement and Engineering Solutions, Inc. | Denver, CO



Mariah Stanley | 2011 CITY Intern | APTA

The CITY Internship program shaped my life. Thanks to the COMTO family, I am off to a great start in the workplace.



Ashley Wiggins | 2011 CITY Intern | FTA

I am really grateful that I was matched with **Jovan Goldstein**, COMTO Financial Advisor, as my mentor because he truly wants to help me. He is in the accounting career field already and has a lot of great tips to help me prepare to be an accountant. I now have a connection with someone that is doing accounting within the transportation industry.



	Alum*	School / Major	Year / Chapter	Employer
A Few Alumnae at a Glance	David Folorian	Prairie View A&M / Civil Engineering	2011 / Dallas	Dallas Area Rapid Transit
	Ashley Wiggins	Morgan State / Accounting & Finance	2011 / DC	Isaacs & Simmons P.C.
	Denzel Golden	Temple University / Civil Engineering	2012 / DC	Turner Construction
	James Lynn	University of Houston / Supply Chain Mgmt	2012 / Houston	SYSCO
	Amanda Mascarenas	Colorado School of Mines / Civil Engineering	2012 / Denver	EES Engineering Solutions
	Jasmine Narcisse	Temple University / Marketing & International Business	2012 / Philadelphia	Bree & Associates
	Benjamin Sanchez	Arizona State / Geography & Economics	2012 / Denver	American Airlines
	Mariah Stanley	Trinity Washington University / Communications	2012 / DC	APTA
	Jonathan Martinez	Rowan University / Civil & Environmental Engineering	2013 / Philadelphia	AECOM
	Jarren Williams	Morgan State / Engineering	2013 / Baltimore	Maryland Transit Administration

*Random Sampling

2013 NATIONAL SCHOLARS

The Conference Of Minority Transportation Officials' (COMTO) National Scholarship Program offers a variety of scholarships to students pursuing careers in the transportation industry. COMTO's mission is to ensure a level playing field and maximum participation in the transportation industry for minority individuals, businesses, and communities of color

Atkins North American Achievement Scholarship

Michael Bastanipour, Sophomore
Mechanical Engineering
University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign
Champaign, IL

LTK Engineering Scholarship

Giacomo Cernjul, 3rd Semester Grad
Transportation Systems Engineering
Georgia Institute of Technology
Atlanta, GA

Atkins North American Achievement Scholarship

Joyrie Dickerson, Senior High School
Intended Major: Chemical Engineering
Hampton University
Pennsauken High School
Hampton, VA

Parsons Brinckerhoff Engineering Scholarship

James Gerrald, Senior
Civil Engineering
North Carolina A&T State University
Greensboro, NC

Parsons Brinckerhoff Golden Apple Scholarship

Ashlyn Lancaster, High School Senior
Intended Major: Environmental Science and Policy
The College of William and Mary
Needham Broughton High School
Williamsburg, VA

Parsons Brinckerhoff Engineering Scholarship

Tiffany Smith, 1st Year Grad
Public Administration
California State University, Northridge
Northridge, CA

LTK Transportation Planning Scholarship

Qun Zhao, 2nd Year Grad
Transportation Planning and Management
Texas Southern University
Houston, TX

COMTO Thomas G. Neusom Scholarship

Mathew Mendoza, Sophomore
Major: Political Science; Minor: Values, Laws and Policy
University of Houston — Main Campus
Houston, TX

through advocacy, information sharing, training, education, and professional development. The National Scholarship Program is one way to ensure the continuing legacy of minorities in transportation. Selections are made annually by a team of industry professionals, as well as representatives from the academic community.

COMTO Rosa L. Parks Scholarship

Betsy Modayil, Sophomore
Major: Accounting, Operations and Information Management; Minor: Hispanic Studies
University of Pennsylvania
Philadelphia, PA

COMTO Trailblazer Scholarship

Sydney Phillips, Junior
Major: English; Minor: African American Studies
Howard University
Washington, DC

COMTO Carmen E. Turner Scholarship

Samson Henry Shivers, Senior
Physical Education and Health
McPherson College
McPherson, KS

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Helen McSwain, Atlanta
Jeri Morton, Philadelphia
Sharmila Mukherjee, Michigan
Melissa Rolle-Scott, Miami
Paralee Shivers, Houston
Deborah Underwood, North Carolina
James Warren, Jacksonville
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COMTO CAREER CENTER

New Search Features for Our Members

If you haven't been to the Career Center lately, here are some of the latest features that are now available:

- Members have the ability to search through all postings, as well as all resumes, listed on the website.
- Members can subscribe to postings so they receive an update anytime there is a change to that posting.
- Members and non-members can post job listings for 30 days. The posting fee for members is \$250.00 (\$350.00, non-members).
- Members can search using several different criteria, including department, salary, location, and position.

To view the most recent listings, please visit: <https://comto.site-ym.com/networking/>



HONORING OUR VETERANS

COMTO honors and thanks all of our members who have served in the armed forces. Honor our nation's veterans by remembering their sacrifice and service to our nation. Take a moment to reflect on those who have proudly worn the uniform of our country and sworn the oath to defend the Constitution of the United States of America. On Veterans Day we say "thank you" to all who have served for our freedom and liberty.



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COMTO Vision Statement

To see the diverse faces of America equally reflected in all levels of the transportation industry.

COMTO Mission Statement

To ensure a level playing field and maximum participation in the transportation industry for minority individuals, businesses, and communities of color through advocacy, information sharing, training, educational, and professional development.

COMTO Objectives

- Membership Growth and Retention
- Training, Education and Professional Development
- Advocacy and Public Awareness
- Historically Underutilized Businesses (HUBs)