

## NEWS RELEASE

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### **DIR Recognizes New Apprenticeship Program at the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority during National Apprenticeship Week**

**San Jose**—The Department of Industrial Relations (DIR) and its Division of Apprenticeship Standards (DAS) are recognizing an innovative transit program at the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (SCVTA) that provides jobs, training and a career path while helping meet transportation needs in the busy Silicon Valley.

DIR Director Christine Baker and DAS Chief Diane Ravnik will officially recognize the Transit Apprenticeship for Professional Career Advancement (TAPCA) today at the SCVTA's headquarters in San Jose. The ceremony also kicks off the second annual National Apprenticeship Week.

TAPCA offers training in four occupations: coach operator, track worker, service mechanic and overhead line worker. The coach operator apprenticeship is the first of its kind in the United States. A total of 147 apprentices are currently enrolled, and each will have the opportunity and training to progress to higher positions.

"This program is a great example of how management, labor and educational organizations collaborate to create career opportunities for Californians," said DAS Chief Diane Ravnik.

TAPCA is a joint effort of the SCVTA, the Amalgamated Transit Union Local 265 and Mission Community College with support from the California Labor Federation and the California Community Colleges' California Apprenticeship Initiative. The TAPCA apprentices will fill positions that SCVTA expects from retirements in the coming years as it plans to meet the needs of more than 140,000 daily riders.

"In this robust economy, it is a perfect time for this kind of innovative thinking, and California is well positioned to take advantage of these new apprenticeship opportunities for our workers and employers," said DIR Director Christine Baker. "It will allow us to rise to the challenge of mass retirements, evolving job trends, and the need for advanced technical skills."

A number of other [events in California](#) are planned for [National Apprenticeship Week](#). These events promote efforts to expand the talent available to U.S. industries and offer workers a chance to earn while learning new skills.

The [Division of Apprenticeship Standards](#) creates opportunities for Californians to gain employable lifetime skills and provides employers with a highly skilled and experienced workforce while strengthening California's economy.

Employees with work-related questions or complaints may contact DIR's Call Center in English or Spanish at 844-LABOR-DIR (844-522-6734). The California Workers' Information line at 866-924-9757 also offers recorded information in English and Spanish on a variety of work-related topics.

Members of the press may contact Erika Monterroza or Peter Melton at (510) 286-1161, and are encouraged to [subscribe to get email alerts](#) on DIR's press releases or other departmental updates.

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The [California Department of Industrial Relations](#), established in 1927, protects and improves the health, safety, and economic well-being of over 18 million wage earners, and helps their employers comply with state labor laws. DIR is housed within the [Labor & Workforce Development Agency](#). For general inquiries, contact DIR's Communications Call Center at 844-LABOR-DIR (844-522-6734) for help in locating the appropriate [division or program](#) in our department.