

APPRENTICESHIP

Two More Graduates out of SacRT Bus Mechanic Apprenticeship Program

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Two new mechanics have joined the Sacramento Regional Transit (SacRT) bus maintenance unit after graduating in April from the bus mechanic apprenticeship program. Jose Ruiz and Arnold Temple will be working on some of the more than 200 coaches in the bus fleet serving the Sacramento region as part of the transit agency.

“What a great opportunity it is to be offered a place in the 3-year mechanic training program,” said Ruiz. “After graduating the program, I recognized all the effort that goes into being a trainee. Thanks to all who made it possible for me to put my newly gained skills to use.”

Ruiz and Temple both started with SacRT as bus service workers and later transitioned into mechanic apprentice positions. Both graduates had prior experience as mechanics. Jose has an engineering degree and he'd worked for transit agencies in Mexico. Temple has an automotive service excellence certificate he earned at Sacramento City College and had been a fleet mechanic for FedEx. Before that, he had owned and operated an automotive repair business.

“I truly enjoyed the training program, as it was challenging yet rewarding,” said Temple. “The training gave me the opportunity to advance my mechanical skills while meeting and working alongside more knowledgeable and seasoned mechanics who were very generous with their time, allowing me to move at my own pace.”

Before being selected, apprentices need to complete 17 technical modules specific to the classification. The length of the program is generally three years, but prior mechanical experience can be applied to reduce the course duration. Once complete, the apprentices earn a certificate in diesel technology.



Jose Ruiz (left) and Arnold Temple (right) stand with their certificates.

The Bus Mechanic Apprenticeship Program at Sacramento Regional Transit began its relationship with the California Division of Apprenticeship Standards (DAS) in September of 2016. The JATC is made up of members of the IBEW Union, maintenance trainers, subject matter experts and management.

“I highly recommend this program because the knowledge I gained will be indispensable during my career and professional growth,” added Arnold.