

COMTO Connections

Garrett A Morgan Day

COMTO Fort Lauderdale, in partnership with South Florida Regional Transportation Authority (SFRTA), Bombardier, Transdev and Keolis, hosted a Garrett A. Morgan Shadow Day with the Youth Automotive Training Center (YATC) on Thursday, February 19th, 2015.



The eight students and their chaperones were welcomed by Loraine Cargill, Chapter President, C. Mikel Oglesby, Deputy Executive Director of SFRTA and other SFRTA senior staff. The students received an overview of the SFRTA Operations Department as well as a tour of the dispatch and call center.

After taking a 60 minute ride on the Tri-Rail train down to SFRTA's Maintenance Yard, they were warmly greeted by the crew of Keolis, TransDev and Bombardier. The students received an Operational and Mechanical tour of the Yard and learned about the many career and educational opportunities in this field. The students, who are used to working with automobile engines, were in awe at the size and weight of the locomotive engines. They learned about quality control and trouble-shooting. Many had questions and were interactive with the mechanics. On the train ride back to SFRTA, they joked about getting their GEDs and certifications so they can one day "fix the trains."

UPCOMING CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

Professional Development Event

Where: SFRTA Board Room
Date: April 15, 2015
Time: Noon to 1 p.m.
Topic: New Passenger Rail Services on the FEC Corridor

Come learn how All Aboard Florida, Tri-Rail Coastal Link and Downtown Miami Link will change travel in S. FL

Spring Cleaning Event

Where: SFRTA Board Room
Date: April 29, 2015

We are accepting donations

**Please contact David Trabal @ 954-788-7970
for drop off**



Scholarship

The COMTO Fort Lauderdale chapter is proud to launch the COMTO Fort Lauderdale Scholarship Program. Scholarships will be offered to deserving minority students who reside in the Palm Beach, Broward and Miami-Dade counties and have an interest in pursuing a career in a transportation-related field.

The COMTO Fort Lauderdale Scholarship Program is aligned with COMTO's mission, which is 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, education and professional development. Please visit <http://comtoftlauderdale.org/scholarships/> for additional information and deadlines.

Women Who Moved the Nation

Cynthia Jones Parks is President and CEO of Jones Worley is a longtime advocate of public transit. She rode the bus daily from her suburban Atlanta home to Georgia State University, where she earned a B.A. in Visual Arts, when bus fare was only 15 cents.

Parks has earned a national reputation in the transportation industry for her agency's outstanding work. Jones Worley has provided marketing, strategic communications, way finding and signage design, branding and creative solutions for more than 20 airports and a dozen transit authorities from California to Florida.

Parks made history when Jones Worley was the only African-American female owned firm selected to be on the team that branded and designed the "Look" of the Centennial Olympic Games. Parks made history again when her firm branded and launched the Breeze Card for the Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority, in what was the first 100% smart card conversion in the country. Jones Worley subsequently won contracts to guide the implementation of seven, uniquely different transit smart cards in San Francisco, St. Louis and Albany, including the South Florida Regional Transportation Authority.

Parks is a popular speaker and panelist. In addition to COMTO, she is a member of the American Public Transportation Association (APTA), the Society of Marketing Professional Services (SMPS), the American Institute of Graphic Arts (AIGA), and the Society for Environmental Graphic Design (SEGD).

2011-2015 COMTO National Strategic Goals :

Historically Underutilized Businesses • Chapter Growth and Development • Membership Growth and Retention • Professional Development

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Calendar of Events

March 2015: 3/12 Monthly Executive Board Meeting

3/18 Quarterly Membership Meeting

April 2015: 4/08 Monthly Executive Board Meeting

4/15 Professional Development Event

4/29 Spring Cleaning Event

May 2015: Monthly Executive Board Meeting

June 2015: Quarterly Membership Meeting

Scholarship Luncheon

July 2015: Monthly Executive Board Meeting

44th National Meeting & Training

Conference, Boston, MA

August 2015: Monthly Executive Board Meeting

September 2015: Quarterly Membership Meeting

October 2015: Monthly Executive Board Meeting
Professional Development Event

November 2015: Monthly Executive Board Meeting
COMTO Week

December 2015: Quarterly Membership Meeting
3rd Annual Silent Auction & Raffle

January 2016: Monthly Executive Board Meeting
Quarterly Membership Meeting

February 2016: Monthly Executive Board Meeting
Garrett A. Morgan Shadow Day



National Update

July 2015—44th National Meeting & Training Conference in Boston, MA
Registration opens March 31, 2015.

June 1– August 7, 2015—Careers In Transportation for Youth (CITY) Internship Program
<http://www.comto.org/?page=cityinternapp>

(Deadline to apply to COMTO's CITY Internship Program has been extended! The new deadline is now **March 31, 2015.**)

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