

# BUSINESS IN MOTION

The official newsletter of APTA's Business Members

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## Program Teaches Students About Infrastructure Jobs



Program participants gathered in anticipation of the graduation ceremony (left). Students, Cardozo faculty, and industry partners with former Secretary of Transportation, Rodney E. Slater (right).

Over the summer, the Business Member Board of Governors (BMBG), with the support of APTAU, partnered with Introducing Youth to America's Infrastructure (iyai+) and the nationally-recognized TransSTEM Academy for a youth engagement program. This pilot program was led by Dr. Beverly A. Scott, founder and CEO of iyai+, and held at the Cardozo Education Campus in Washington, D.C. The six-week program introduced students to infrastructure careers across the nation's critical lifeline sectors; transportation, water/wastewater systems, energy, and communications in connection with tech-readiness support and exposure to the importance of the advanced-manufacturing sector.

Through APTAU, APTA's new one-stop education, professional career and workforce development center, the BMBG had the opportunity to help develop and deliver the transit sector-specific component of the program. The five-day program was kicked off on July 8 by Freddie Fuller II, APTA Secretary/Treasurer and Jacobs Vice President - Electronic Payment Systems. The program included classroom instruction, educational sessions/presentations, interactive activities, group discussions, and off-site tours.

BMBG Committee Chair Huelon Harrison, who was pleased that APTA's business members had the opportunity to support the pilot program, said, "The BMBG is committed to the development and preparation of a pipeline of qualified employees for our industry. The summer youth program with TransSTEM Academy is just one of the programs we supported to promote public transportation as a career choice. Through this program and others, we continue to play an integral role in APTA's strategic goal on workforce development."

Some participating business members included GENFARE, HDR, HNTB, Jacobs, Squire Patton Boggs, and WSP USA.

The program concluded with student presentations and documentary shorts showcasing key takeaways. A graduation ceremony was held at Cardozo Education Campus with a keynote address featuring the Honorable Rodney E. Slater, Former U.S. Secretary of Transportation. ■