

Good morning  
Chair Riley, Vice-Chair Hansell and members of the committee,

My name is Kevin Kinoshita. I went through the diesel apprenticeship program at TRI-MET and have been a member of the Joint Apprenticeship and Training Committee for over 10 years. In a couple of weeks I will have 27 years of employment in maintenance at TRI-MET.

I wanted to talk a little more in depth about the apprenticeship programs at TRI-MET/ATU 757 which include programs for Light Rail Vehicle Maintenance, Maintenance of Way (MOW), Diesel Bus Maintenance and Facilities Maintenance with Limited Maintenance Electrician licenses. These programs minimum training and practice hours from 4000 up to-8320 hours. At a minimum, it takes two years to complete an apprenticeship program and must successfully pass a validated qualification test to determine mechanical aptitude.

These programs include classroom time, lab time while in class, and on the job training with a journeyman mechanic. The facilities maintenance program classroom time is done at Portland Community College but their on the job training is done at properties that are owned or leased by TriMet.

Apprenticeship programs improve our infrastructure. I see these new apprentices getting the latest and newest technology first-hand from the trainers before becoming Journeyman mechanics. Moving forward these newer apprentices will become the future of alternative fuel mechanics for transit. Our programs will most likely change from a Diesel bus program to alternative fuel programs and our Diesel Journeyman mechanics will become Alternative Fuel Journeyman mechanics. We will have a diverse work force with diesel, hybrids, electric bus and possibly alternative fuel journeyman mechanics for the future. As technology changes in transit so did our apprenticeship classes, lab time and On the Job Training time. As an example when I started we had no air conditioning busses on property and we learned basic heating and cooling as TRIMET ordered new busses with Air Conditioning our trainers had to incorporate(HVAC) Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning class, The trainers had to get our current (JMEC) Journeyman mechanics and new apprentices licensed to work on the Air conditioning system.

Apprenticeship programs also improve the lives of workers, their families and the community at large. While going through the apprenticeship program as a single parent it taught you to manage your time as well as study at all hours of the night. You had to adjust, be patient and learn from others in order to reap the benefits in the end. Everyday I learn something new from other journeyman and apprentices in order to keep moving forward in this industry

The Apprenticeship programs in place at TriMet began between 1984 and 1994. Now is not the time to eliminate the Diesel and facilities program. As infrastructure continues to change and Oregon workers and our economy recover from COVID-19, now more than ever is it important to prioritize and invest in our future.