

A Partnership Initiative to Develop the Next Generation of Leaders for the Transportation Industry

CITYALUM News & Notes October 2013

The Mentoring Continues: Our Time at APTA

BY 2013 CITY INTERNS— Aspen Chandler and David Sanchez

The CITY Intern program continues to mentor us. At the gracious invitation of **Mr. Michael P. Melaniphy**, President and CEO of the **American Public Transportation Association (APTA)**, we attended the APTA conference in Chicago, September 28–30. We were fortunate, pleased and honored to be selected by our COMTO CITY Program Leadership to represent the 2013 CITY Intern Class. The entire experience was simply great!



Talking before our flight and again in the cab ride to our hotel, we were struck by the wonderful opportunity and responsibility our selection afforded us. We were on the brink of a weekend of making impressions personally, professionally and for the CITY Program and meeting important individuals — yet another life changing experience and a weekend we would never forget.

Saturday, upon arriving, we met with our COMTO supervisor and mentor, **Ms. Renee Edwards**, COMTO Board Member and President, COMTO Dallas and our host, **Ms. Pam Boswell**, Vice President of Workforce Development and Educational Services for APTA. After getting their guidance, we quickly fell into the busy yet pleasant rhythm that carried us through the conference. It was clear that we were no longer at COMTO's National Conference, a highlight moment of our internship, where we knew everyone or felt as if we did.

First up, COMTO President, **Ms. Julie Cunningham**, invited us to join her at APTA's Board of Directors' Luncheon. It was terrific (and somewhat comforting) to see familiar faces from and members of the COMTO family, such as, **Ms. Shirley DeLibero**, former Board Chair, **Mr. Christian Kent** (WMATA), **Mr. Phillip Washington** (RTD-Denver), and **Mr. Keith Parker** (MARTA).

After a brief introduction by Ms. Cunningham, it was our turn to stand before this esteemed audience of industry professionals and give our **"CITY Intern Elevator Speech"**— a concise summary of who we were, what school we attend, and to share what we did over the summer internship.

Aspen | FTA Regional VI | Fort Worth
David | CH2MHill and NY City Transit

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COMTO

The APTA family thanks you for the privilege to participate in the outstanding CITY Internship program.

We are so pleased to host these amazing students and hope they come away with an even broader understanding of the career opportunities in the transportation sector.



Michael P. Melaniphy
President & CEO | APTA

COMTO is pleased to partner with APTA to develop the next generation of leaders for our industry. We are especially proud of David, Aspen and all of the CITY Interns. They are all destined to make a difference.



Julie Cunningham
President & CEO | COMTO



It is a great pleasure working with Aspen and David. They represent the CITY Program well.

Renee Edwards
Board Member | COMTO



We are very pleased that Aspen was selected to attend the conference. She was an outstanding intern here at FTA

Robert Patrick
Administrator | FTA Region VI



Our interns are simply outstanding and definitely ready to lead our industry.

Bob Prince
Board Chair | COMTO



Aspen and David, we are all very proud of you. Remember to be nimble.

Betty Jackson
CITY Program Manager | FTA



Aspen and David are outstanding young leaders. We expect great things from them in the future.

Freddie Fuller
Board Member | COMTO



The Mentoring Continues: Our Time at APTA

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Saturday evening was very special. We had dinner and an informal mentoring session with several COMTO Board members leaders to include **Mr. Freddie Fuller**, CUBIC Corporation, **Ms. Renee Edwards**, DART, **Mr. Robert Prince**, AECOM and COMTO Board Chair.

Sunday, we began early with a Mid-Level Managers breakfast. This was more in our comfort zone, in a room with a small group of people, about twenty five. Before the meeting started,

we had the pleasure of speaking and taking pictures with **Mr. Melaniphy** and APTA's new Board Chair, **Mr. Peter Varga**. Mr. Melaniphy told us how impressed he had been with all the CITY interns he had met in Jacksonville during the COMTO Conference and with the internship program as a whole.

We spent the remainder of our time at the conference, as we did at COMTO's National Conference, listening and learning and interacting with various senior leaders. We also had the good fortune to meet with other college students attending the conference, all interested in pursuing careers in transportation.

In sum, having the opportunity to attend the APTA Annual Conference was beneficial to us professionally because it gave us the opportunity to make **even more** face-to-face connections. Being able to talk directly with industry professionals beyond an email or a resume gave us a tremendous advantage for which we can only thank the CITY Internship Program.

Special Thanks to:

- **Mr. Melaniphy** and **Ms. Pam Boswell**, for being such gracious hosts.
- **Ms. Cunningham**, for having the vision to develop the CITY program.
- **Ms. Edwards** for being our designated mentor at the conference; introducing the two of us to her colleagues and especially for providing us with valuable insight into what we can come to expect when entering the transportation industry.
- **Ms. Jacqueline Burrell** and **COL Paige, Program Leaders**, for their leadership and guidance.

AND LASTLY

- **Our fellow 2013 CITY Interns** for allowing us to represent them.

This was a truly amazing opportunity we will never forget. Thanks for the mentoring and the memories.

A Thank You Note to FTA Administrator Rogoff

August 9, 2013
Administrator Rogoff

Dear Sir,

We want to thank you for your continued support of the CITY Internship Program and COMTO. We understand and have come to appreciate the great working relationship you have with Ms. Cunningham and the COMTO leadership.

We each found this internship to “life changing.” Our kickoff video conference session and our time with you in Jacksonville was invaluable. Your guidance to us to stay nimble continues to resonate with all of us.



Through this internship, we have had the opportunity to meet the industry’s finest leaders, all of whom shared their own journeys and offered words of wisdom and encouragement. Jacksonville was a once in a lifetime experience. However, our time with our supervisors proved key for us all. Collectively, we thank each of them for their support and guidance. A very

special thanks to **Ms. McMillan** and your great staff, **Ms. Daguillard** and **Ms. Jackson**, for this wonderful opportunity.

Throughout this 10 week internship, we can honestly say we grew personally and professionally. We have learned more about the transportation industry as a viable career path. More importantly, perhaps, we have learned some of what it takes to be a leader today.

And finally, we commend you for funding this program for two additional summers, opening the door for many more future leaders to join the industry.

Sincerely,

The 2013 Class
CITY Interns

Where Are They Now?



Denzel Golden | 2012 CITY Intern | WMATA

This program, to me, is not about the actual internship so much as it is about the professional exposure you gain and the mindset you come out of the program holding but more about the mindset you develop.



Amanda Mascarenas | 2012 CITY Intern | Entitlement and Engineering Solutions, Inc.

As a small business owner and COMTO member, we were fortunate to have had Amanda Mascarenas as a CITY Intern for the past 2 years. She was great; we hope she will agree to join our firm as a civil engineer when she graduates this year.

— **Amanda M. O'Connor** | *President* | Entitlement and Engineering Solutions, Inc. | Denver, CO



Mariah Stanley | 2011 CITY Intern | APTA

The CITY Internship program shaped my life. Thanks to the COMTO family, I am off to a great start in the workplace.



Ashley Wiggins | 2011 CITY Intern | FTA

I am really grateful that I was matched with **Jovan Goldstein**, COMTO Financial Advisor, as my mentor because he truly wants to help me. He is in the accounting career field already and has a lot of great tips to help me prepare to be an accountant. I now have a connection with someone that is doing accounting within the transportation industry.



	Alum*	School / Major	Year / Chapter	Employer
A Few Alumnae at a Glance	David Folorian	Prairie View A&M / Civil Engineering	2011 / Dallas	DART
	Ashley Wiggins	Morgan State / Accounting & Finance	2011 / DC	Isaacs & Simmons P.C.
	Denzel Golden	Temple University / Civil Engineering	2012 / DC	Turner Construction
	James Lynn	University of Houston / Supply Chain Mgmt	2012 / Houston	SYSCO
	Amanda Mascarenas	Colorado School of Mines / Civil Engineering	2012 / Denver	EES Engineering Solutions
	Jasmine Narcisse	Temple University / Marketing & International Business	2012 / Philadelphia	Bree & Associates
	Benjamin Sanchez	Arizona State / Geography & Economics	2012 / Denver	American Airlines
	Mariah Stanley	Trinity Washington University / Communications	2012 / DC	APTA
	Jonathan Martinez	Rowan University / Civil & Environmental Engineering	2013 / Philadelphia	AECOM
	Jarren Williams	Morgan State / Engineering	2013 / Baltimore	MTA

*Random Sampling