

Resolution #21

COMMENDATION TO AMALGAMATED TRANSIT UNION LOCAL 265 FOR ACHIEVING HISTORIC APPRENTICESHIP DESIGNATION FOR BUS OPERATORS

PRESENTED BY: **AMALGAMATED TRANSIT UNION LOCAL 1575**

WHEREAS, bus operators throughout the United States face extremely challenging work conditions that requires them to juggle multiple priorities of interacting with diverse groups of passengers; safely navigating a large vehicle through road, traffic and weather conditions; and working long hours without regularly scheduled breaks on tight schedules; and

WHEREAS, bus operators have some of the highest rates of occupational illness and injury in the world as a result of this highly stressful work environment; and

WHEREAS, bus operators have had to fight for public respect and recognition of their work as a skilled professional craft; and

WHEREAS, the Amalgamated Transit Union, Local 265 in San Jose, California, established a highly successful bus operator mentor program in 2008, whereby veteran bus operators mentor new bus operators to master this difficult craft; and

WHEREAS, the hard work and success of Amalgamated Transit Union Local 265's new operator mentor program has led to a historic, first-ever formal Bus Operator Apprenticeship designation by the United States Department of Labor, and the California Division of Apprenticeship Standards; and

WHEREAS, all bus operators are now learning and benefiting from Amalgamated Transit Union Local 265's ten years of hard work in building labor/management partnerships founded on professionalism, health and wellness as core principles of this difficult craft; and

WHEREAS, the California Labor Federation supports apprenticeships as an important way to build labor/management high-road training partnerships that benefit workers' job opportunities and career advancement;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the California Labor Federation hereby commends the hard work and perseverance of Amalgamated Transit Union Local 265 in establishing worker-centered, labor/management apprenticeship programs that gives bus operators throughout California and the United States a new tool for higher quality work life, a healthier retirement, and greater respect on the job.

Adopted by Delegates