

## **Highway Maintenance Management Associate Degree in Applied Sciences**

(reprinted from the APWA Reporter)

In August of 2019, after almost 4 years of collaboration and partnering with transportation maintenance agencies, Front Range Community College kicked off the first semester of the only existing Associates Degree in Highway Maintenance Management in the nation.

Less than 2 years later we have over 50 students in the program from agencies representing 8 states, and our first student will graduate in May 2021. The program was awarded the League of Innovation for Community Colleges 2020 Innovations Award for our work with Prior Learning Assessments (PLA), which is the foundation of program. We have been approached by state DOT's and a few community colleges about using our program model to create a similar degree.

Our public works students represent the city of Raleigh, NC; Las Vegas, NV; Berthoud, CO; Pitkin County, CO; Severance, CO; among others. In fact, our first graduating student is from a public works agency in Texas.

Texas APWA were instrumental in providing the skills and competencies necessary for our student's successful completion of the program. Students are able to complete a challenge exam or create a portfolio to demonstrate competency in a topic and earn college credits. Certificates from various APWA courses were used as evidence of knowledge for topics such as highway operations safety, preservation and preventive measures, asset management, supervision, and leadership.

Our relationship with training providers like APWA and FHWA's Local Technical Assistance Programs (LTAP) includes scholarship as well as transcriptions to courses they offer, which award students credit for our corresponding HWY courses.

One of our goals is to work with APWA and training providers who serve our students and create similar transcription agreements. These agreements, and our other PLA options, allow students to complete the degree in less time and for less money than a traditional degree. Transcriptions to APWA courses could allow members the added benefit of being awarded college credits for the valuable training you provide.

We are working with other industry training providers, as well, to transcribe credits for courses like American Traffic Safety Service's (ATSSA's) Traffic Control Supervisor course, and OSHA 10-hour certificates.

Currently, we can award six credits for students with a Commercial Driver's License (CDL) and six credits for FEMA's ICS 100, 200, 700, and 800. This amounts to all the 12 electives required to complete the program, and the cost is only what the state charges to verify a CDL. FEMA courses and verification are free.

As our graduation rate increases each semester, and our students apply for promotional opportunities, agencies may eventually prefer applicants with an Associates Degree in highway maintenance management, and possibly add it to the requirements for promotion. Working together with our APWA and industry partners FRCC wants to add value to your programs, while helping your local agency employees earn a college degree.

For more information on how to apply, how our transcription agreements work, or to host an informational session, please contact Susan Baillargeon at [susan.baillargeon@frontrange.edu](mailto:susan.baillargeon@frontrange.edu) or 970-204-8175.