



For Immediate Release
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SMART announces two to graduate from in-house training program for essential railroad positions

Petaluma, CA – Sonoma Marin Area Rail Transit (SMART) announced today that two new Signal Technician trainees have graduated from SMART's in-house training program for Signal Technicians.

SMART announced its in-house training program in December 2020 to address the difficulty in hiring and retaining qualified signal technicians in the San Francisco North Bay region, due to the high cost of living, as well as the absence of an active railroad and railroad jobs in the area for more than 60 years.

The training program was open to the public as well as employees of SMART, who were required to take a written test prior to being selected for the interview pool. Two successful candidates were moved into the nearly year-long training program on April 5, 2021.

The training program consisted of classroom work focusing on the operation of SMART's railroad crossing warning systems, best practices, and regulatory requirements. Trainees also participated in significant on-the-job training, working closely with Signal Technicians and Supervisors in the field to learn how to maintain SMART's train control systems and railroad crossing warning devices.

"Training and hiring members of our community helps keep good jobs local," said David Rabbitt, Chair of the SMART Board of Directors. "It's good for the economy, it's good for local families and it's good for SMART."

"We would like to thank Teamsters Local 665 for their support for the development of our in-house Signal Technician training program." said SMART Human Resources Manager Lisa Hansley.

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