

Springdale-PIVOT Recognizes Graduates

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dent government representatives and alums made moving speeches to encourage their peers to continue through the program, saying that it was a worthwhile and life-changing opportunity. "I was houseless and living in my car in September of 2022," said current Springdale student government president Sierra Townley. "Now I have a community of friends and the training I need for a brighter future. You can be at a low point in your life and still be able to achieve great things."

During the graduation ceremony, students who had completed the program were recognized for their hard work and effort in meeting the Job Corps requirements, with many students receiving an additional award for Exceptional Student Achievement. Multnomah County Commissioner Lori Stegman gave a commencement speech detailing her struggle to obtain an education and break through the hierarchical pow-

er structures as a woman of color to her current position on an all-female, majority-minority board. Her achievement inspired hope and possibility, emphasizing that everyone should be invited to the table and heard as society shifts toward more progressive structures.

Springdale Job Corps Center Director Tom Pillar concluded that the day had successfully engaged and encouraged students currently in the program to think about the bigger picture, "We hope this inspired our newest students to commit to their dreams, work through their challenges, and realize they have the potential to achieve great things in their lives."

Job Corps provides free job training programs, health care, meals, housing, and career support to low-income youth aged 16-24 to help prepare them for a brighter future. The goal is to assist these students in finding stable employment, housing, and community to ensure that they succeed despite existing income inequalities.

TriMet Adds Staff...

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tergovernmental agreement with the Multnomah County District Attorney's office that dates back to February 1998. Since then, we have contracted with the DA's office for the services of a single deputy district attorney to work with us to hold people responsible for crimes on our system. In August of this year, TriMet expanded that agreement with the DA's office. In doing so, we now have a second deputy DA, Megan Irinaga, working on misdemeanor and minor felony cases for TriMet while Samuels, who has worked with TriMet since November 2022, focuses on major and minor felonies.

TriMet's expanded agreement with the Multnomah County DA's office also now provides for up to two investigators to assist the deputy DAs in compiling information on TriMet-related cases. This essentially creates a unit of district attorney personnel assigned to TriMet that will have a strong understanding of TriMet's mission to provide transit service that is safe, convenient, reliable, accessible and welcoming to all.

"TriMet is dedicated to the safety of our riders and employees, and our partnership with the Multnomah County District Attorney's office enhances our daily security efforts," TriMet Executive Director of Safety and Security Andrew Wilson said. "TriMet's security staff and our Transit Police Division partners work together with the DA personnel assigned to TriMet to keep criminals off our transit system."

"The new prosecutorial resources will help streamline and speed up investigations," Multnomah County Sheriff Nicole Morrissey O'Donnell said, "while simultaneously freeing up Transit Police officers to focus more time in the community and helping to prevent future crimes."

"TriMet safety is critical to our community, and my office's partnership with TriMet supports our united goal of public safety—on our city's transit system and in the wider community," Multnomah County District Attorney Mike Schmidt said. "These new resources, combined with our longstanding partnership, will help us prioritize the safety of our public transit system and all those who work to keep us moving." TriMet's current agreement with Multnomah County is effective through June 30, 2025 at a cost of \$2,080,119. Expanding our agreement with the Multnomah County DA's office is just one of the ways TriMet is working to increase safety and security.



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