



## Driving Students To Success

### Message from the Interim Superintendent



Welcome Back Drivers!

I'm so excited about this school year! As we start this next chapter together, I want to express my heartfelt gratitude for the huge role you play in our students' lives. You are the first face they see in the morning and the last before they head home, making you integral to their daily experience.

Your dedication, patience, and unwavering commitment ensure that our students arrive safely and ready to learn. Each smile, greeting, and act of kindness you offer sets the tone for their day and fosters a sense of community and belonging.

This year, we aim to inspire and nurture every student, and your role is crucial in this mission. Remember, your work goes beyond just transportation; you are mentors, role models, and heroes to so many young minds!

Together, we can create a supportive and enriching environment for our students. Thank you for everything you do that helps shape their future and contribute to a brighter tomorrow.

Here's to a fantastic school year ahead!  
#fUSd

*Misty*

Misty Her  
Interim Superintendent

Welcome to your quarterly newsletter. This newsletter has been designed with you in mind. Our goal is to keep you updated and informed on what is happening in the **Transportation Department**.

### Office Staff

Main Phone: 559-457-3138

Director: Paul Rosencrans 73103  
Admin. Sec: Marianne Johnson 73179

Business Ops Manager:  
Melissa Beltran 73384  
Manager II: Ramiro Salas 73104

Supervisor: Chris Zamudio 73142  
Supervisor: Jennifer Moren 71326  
Supervisor: Tony Aboularge 73122  
Trainer: Lanesha Ruben 73292

Dispatcher: Emma Fontes 73298  
Dispatcher: Carlos Fonseca 73297  
Dispatcher: Michael Alonzo 73297

Accountant I: Mao Thao 73139  
Office Asst. I: Keng Xiong 73199  
Acct Clerk II: Allen Thaoxauchay 73132

We transport approximately **15,000 students** to and from school daily with a total of **1.43 million miles** annually on 106 buses.



# KONG LEE

Name: Kong Lee

Title: Bus Driver Route: 52 Bus: 18

Years as a Bus Driver: 20 yrs.

Years as an FUSD Employee: 20 yrs.

FUSD Schools he serves:

- Greenberg Elementary
- Gaston Middle School
- Computech
- CART
- Edison High School



Kong enjoys going to new places daily and seeing new things and driving our future.

The best advice Kong would share with a fellow driver is:

“Be patient, take your time, and follow the instructions as given to avoid problems.”

He enjoys going to the gym, walking, and spending time on his bus while on duty.

## Shining Bright with the Sunshine Committee!

The Sunshine Committee has been a beacon of positivity and dedication last school year, lifting our spirits and energizing our department with their amazing efforts. A huge thank you goes out to them for their hard work in creating enjoyable events for our drivers. Their commitment truly brightens our days and boosts our morale!

We're excited to invite fellow drivers to join this incredible team. Bring your fresh ideas and enthusiasm—there's always room for more sunshine! Help us continue to spread joy and make a difference. Come be a part of the Sunshine Committee and shine with us!

### Event Calendar

The Sunshine Committee will be focusing on creating meaningful events this year.

We are excited for the new year, we hope you will join in the festivities!



Committee: Twyla Hunt, Leigh Jenkins, James Krebs, Corina Lozoya, Lane-sha Ruben & Willie Woods.



Did you know to become a Bus Driver it takes a lot of training?

Our Drivers have to do 40 hours of training to be eligible for their Bus Driver Certificate.

They must complete 20 hours of classroom instruction and 20 hours of behind the wheel instruction.

Once they complete their training, there are several other processes including a CHP test in order to earn their 5 year certificate.

To keep their certificate valid they must document 10 hours of training every year and on the 5th year they must re-test with the CHP to renew their Bus Driver Certificate.

It takes a lot of commitment to become a Bus Driver and we are very proud of all of our drivers.

They are dedicated to making sure our students get to school safe and on time.

**Thank you to our Drivers for your commitment and dedication!**



## July

Torsha Franklin 7/2  
 Agustine Espinoza 7/3  
 Marianne Johnson 7/14  
 Angelica Gamez 7/15  
 Jeff Johns 7/19  
 Christian Aguilar 7/28  
 Paul Rosencrans 7/31

## August

Michelle Willis 8/4  
 Rosemary Morales 8/10  
 Randall Baker 8/16  
 Donald Sellers 8/20  
 Johnny Cruz 8/29

## September

R Scott Harvey 9/4  
 James Krebs 9/8  
 Anita Jones 9/10  
 Raul Garcia 9/13  
 Kamaljit "Tony" Toor 9/29  
 Keng Xiong 9/30

**Happy Birthday to all  
 our Drivers and  
 Staff !**

# SUMMER CAMP

## Celebrating a Fantastic Summer Camp Experience!

This summer, our expanded learning team truly went above and beyond, offering an incredible variety of over 130 camps for Fresno Unified students. From rock climbing and fishing to exploring careers in engineering and entrepreneurship, there was something for everyone. Students dove into creative camps with dancing, clay sculpting, and even the Jurassic world, while sports and STEM options kept them active and engaged.

We at the Transportation Department are thrilled to support this amazing initiative by safely transporting hundreds of students to their camp adventures. A heartfelt thank you to everyone involved for making this summer unforgettable!



## PAUL GILL

Name: Paul Gill  
 Title: Bus Driver Route: 50 Bus: 64  
 Years as a Bus Driver: 1 yr.  
 Years as an FUSD Employee: 1 yr.

### FUSD Schools he serves:

- Heaton Elementary
- Bullard Talent
- Tioga Middle School
- Fort Miller Middle School
- Computech
- Edison High School



Paul appreciates that the duties of a school bus driver aren't just confined to driving. You become an important and steady person in these young children's lives. We are transporting our the worlds most precious cargo.

The best advice Paul would share with a fellow driver is:

"You've never been more in control of another person's human life before." "Drive safe I must truly say."

In his free time he likes to play pool and watch his Raiders and Warriors. He also enjoys playing the bagpipes in his kilt.



# DISTRICT RESOURCE

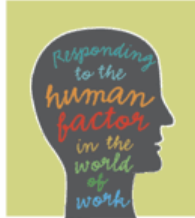
## CLAREMONT

Powered by  uprisehealth

Claremont is a firm of select professionals who can help you with life's challenges. You will be referred to a conveniently located counselor or resource with expertise in your area of concern. These services are provided at NO charge to you as part of your benefits package.

Claremont EAP services include:

- Counseling visits
- Work/Life referrals
- Legal consultation
- Financial consultation
- Confidentiality



If you are needing services please call 800-834-3773 or go to:  
[claremonteap.com](http://claremonteap.com)

If you would like a brochure please see the staff in the  
Transportation office

## CARMEN MONTOYA

Name: Carman Montoya  
Title: Bus Driver Route: 21 Bus: 54  
Years as a Bus Driver: 29 yrs.  
Years as an FUSD Employee: 2yrs.

FUSD Schools she serves:

- Gaston Middle School
- Computech
- Edison High School



Carmen loves kids and watching them grow. She also enjoys watching them succeed in accomplishing their goals.

The best advice Carmen would share with a fellow driver is:

“Be patient. Be nice to one another, we are in this together as a team.”

In her spare time she enjoys being with her family and going on road trips.



## LET'S GO ON AN ADVENTURE!

Did you know in the 2023/2024 school year our FUSD's yellow fleet fulfilled **1000s of** trip request on **over 5000** buses?

Where did our Buses go?

- Fresno Chaffee Zoo
- Wild Water Adventures
- The Island Waterpark
- Bowling trips
- Pismo
- Disneyland
- Knott'sberry Farm
- United Skate
- Fresno State University
- Monterey Bay Aquarium
- plus a whole lot more!

This does not include charter bus trips.

# Adventure

**The Transportation department is happy to fulfill bus trip request.**

Only 30 trips are available a day. Don't miss out on the opportunity to take your students on an adventure.

To learn more on how to request a trip please visit the [Transportation Staff website](#).

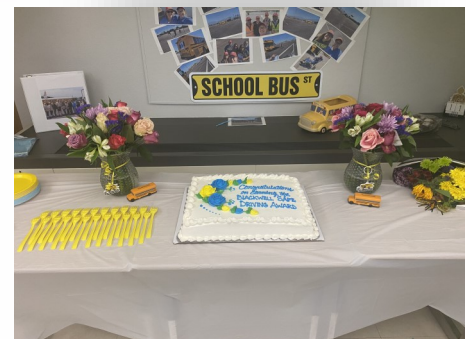
## Honoring Excellence: Fresno Unified's Robert C. Blackwell Safe Driving Award Recipients

Congratulations to the California Highway Patrol Accident-Free Driving Award Winning Bus Drivers. Jennifer Moren and Ismael Lopez were awarded the Blackwell Award for 20 years of Accident-Free Driving. The award is provided by the California Highway Patrol annually on School Bus Drivers Day. This is an award named after Officer Black-

well who served from 1950 to 1970. He was a school bus pupil officer. This year Jennifer Moren and Ismael Lopez are the recipients of this prestigious award. Moren and Lopez are estimated to drive over **375,000** miles in their 20 years. Our two Drivers received a "Driver Safety Award" from the California Highway Patrol School Public Safety Officer Al Mata. Make sure to congratulate them when you see them.



## Honoring our Blackwell Safe Driving Award Recipients

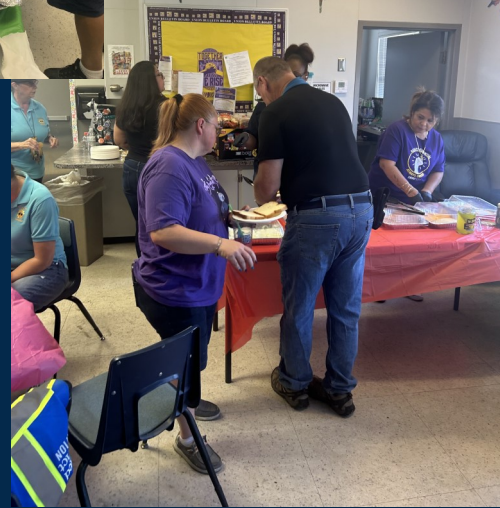
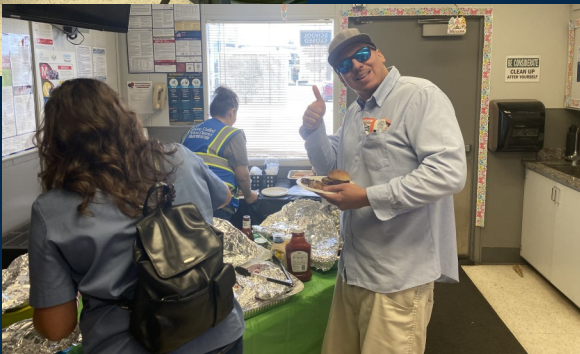
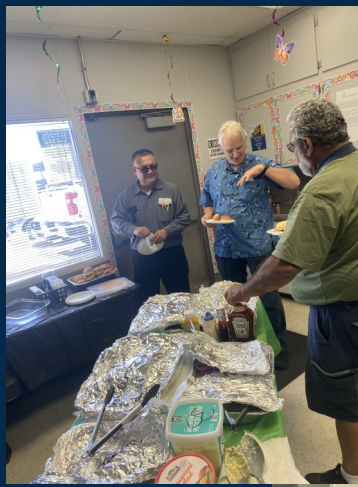


“

ANYONE CAN **DRIVE A CAR**  
**BUT IT TAKES SOMEONE**  
SPECIAL TO **DRIVE A SCHOOL BUS!**

”





## BUS DRIVER APPRECIATION

### Celebrating Our Bus Drivers

On Bus Driver Appreciation Day, our Sunshine Committee organized a lively barbecue to honor our dedicated bus drivers. With hotdogs, hamburgers, and all the fixings, we came together to show our deep gratitude. Our drivers play a crucial role in ensuring our students' safety and well-being, often starting their days early and navigating challenging conditions. This event was a heartfelt thank you for their unwavering commitment and hard work. Huge shout-out to all our drivers—you're not just driving; you're making a difference every day. Your efforts are truly appreciated and celebrated!



Students are loving on our bus drivers.





# TRAINING TEAM

## Transportation Training Team: Our Success is Their Success

At our organization, we know that our drivers' success is integral to our overall achievement. That's why our Training Team is dedicated to providing comprehensive, high-quality instruction and in-service opportunities. Our classroom training covers essential topics, including First Aid, ensuring drivers are prepared for emergencies and meet certification requirements. Additionally, our renewal classes help drivers stay updated with industry standards and maintain their credentials.

Beyond classroom instruction, our Training Team offers practical in-service sessions on crucial skills such as vehicle components, pre-trip inspections, and defensive driving. These hands-on training opportunities are designed to keep drivers proficient and ready to handle real-world challenges safely and effectively.

Our focus is on setting up drivers for long-term success. By providing ongoing training a, behind the wheel and renewal opportunities, we ensure they remain compliant, skilled, and confident in their roles. This approach not only enhances individual performance but also contributes to the overall safety and efficiency of our transportation network. In summary, the success of our drivers is a direct reflection of our commitment to their development, underscoring our belief that their success is truly our success.





# TONY ABOULARAGE

**“GET IT DONE  
FAST & RIGHT  
THE FIRST  
TIME.”**

**Tell me about you Tony, how many years have you been in Transportation at FUSD?**

I've been married for 33 years, I have 1 son and 3 step daughters, 7 granddaughters and my son and his wife are expecting their first child in October. My wife Kathy was unfortunately diagnosed with Alzheimer's in 2016 and for the past 5 years has lived in a care home. I spend as much time with her as possible. When I visit her all I need from her is that big, beautiful smile of hers, that makes my day and luckily for us, we still get it.

I worked for my previous employer for 29 years before coming to FUSD on 9-11-2006. I was a mechanic for 10 years and have been the bus shop supervisor for the last 8 years.

**What goals do you have for the bus shop?**

Maintaining buses through out the year in a fast and efficient manner and making sure I keep my mechanics informed of professional development opportunities.

**What do you enjoy most about working in the Transportation Department and the bus shop?**

I like knowing that we keep the buses in the best shape for the FUSD kids. I enjoy the daily ins and outs of the work day. It's fast pace and there is always work to be done. I get a lot accomplished each day, its hard at times to stop working because there is always so much to do.

I enjoy working with my team and supporting their professional growth in their skill set and career path.

**What motivates you professionally?**

I just love what I do, giving it my all on good days and bad.

**What do you do in your spare time?**

“Spare time, who has spare time?!” When I do have spare time I enjoy camping with friends, taking my dogs to the dog park & riding my bike. Soon I'll have to make more spare time so that I can spend more time with my newest grandchild.

**Fresno Unified  
Transportation  
Department  
Supervisor**



# AMY WOODS

## Reserve your trip today

You can request field trips by going to <https://www.fieldtriprequest.com/>

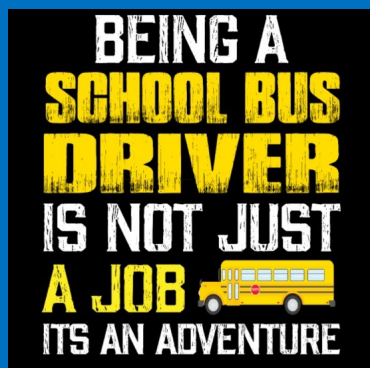
Do not enter your email address or password.

Instead go to the bottom where it says **External Login** and click on active directory.

Here are some easy to follow directions:

To request field trips: [Field Trip Request Training Video](#)

Please visit the [Transportation Internal web site](#) for other BusHive resources.



Name: Amy Woods

Title: Bus Driver Route: 28 Bus: 72

Years as a Bus Driver: 3 years

Years as an FUSD Employee: 2.5 yrs.

FUSD Schools she serves:

- Baird Middle School
- Copper Academy
- Fort Miller Middle School
- Bullard High School

Amy likes working with the kids.

The best advice Amy would share with a fellow driver is:

“Be kind, we don’t know what someone else is going through.”

In her spare time she enjoys traveling, especially going on cruises.



## SMOOTH TRANSITION



With as many as 75 trips going out per day at peak times of the year, the district needs a solution that could keep up with the demand while addressing end user’s top priorities. After evaluating many field trip request programs, the Bushive trip software was selected for implementation. Bushive software provides a robust system with automated features and customization. To make the process more efficient, the district selected a trip management solution that would save time and improve coordination among the schools and the transportation department. The system is intuitive, making it easy to use for many staff members within the district.

The BusHive field trip platform is highly customizable, and boasts a full suite of features, including:

- Improved communications by providing teachers with direct access to all approvals, and notes for their individual trips and requests.
- Online field trip request forms and approval paths.
- Historical records of the field trip approval process.
- District blackout dates for holidays, testing, and more based on bus availability.

Go to the [Transportation Staff website](#) to reserve your bus today.

# JOE CASTRO

Name: Joe Castro

Title: Vehicle Utility Worker

Years as an FUSD Employee: 28 years

Departments served:

- Transportation-Bus Shop

Joe likes Fresno Unified for it's benefits and the people.

Joe enjoys working in the Transportation Department because it is different every day.

In his spare time he enjoys riding his motorcycle, going to the beach and relaxing at home watching sports.



PUT DOWN THE POM POMS, MOM. YOU'RE EMBARRASSING ME.

## Training Corner

Did you know our training team is here to help you stay compliant and up to date on all your driver requirements?

Here are some of the ways they can help you:

- Classroom instruction
- Behind the Wheel instruction
- Proficiencies
- Retraining
- In-Service
- Insure Driver Validity
- Help prepare for CHP test and renewal
- DOT FMCSA
- Keep the department updated on all new bus regulations



Need help preparing for your pre-trip inspection test?

Reach out to one of your team members today!

### Certified Pre-Trip Team

Gabriel Castro  
Kellie Cavazos  
Stevan Fabela  
Carlos Fonseca  
Elva Fonseca  
Stacie Valeriotte



# FROM THE BUS SHOP



We are committed to making sure our students have a good experience on their bus ride to school or home. When a student loses an item we want them to be able to reclaim their items in a timely manner.

With our new [policies and procedures](#) regarding lost and found, we hope to make the process of reclaiming items easier.

For items that are not claimed at the end of every semester, we are partnering with [Eco World](#). Proceeds will be donated to the FUSD Scholarship Fund.

For more information on how Eco World can help you fundraise for your school, contact Marianne in the Transportation Department.



We've had a dynamic summer here at the bus shop, marked by significant achievements and collaborative efforts. Following the promotion of one of our mechanics, Joe Castro, our dedicated vehicle utility worker, stepped up admirably as an interim mechanic, with the support of Steve Baird. We truly appreciate Joe's commitment and hard work.

This summer has been exceptionally busy, with both summer school and camp activities in full swing. We addressed the primary concern of air conditioning issues, and although we repaired the malfunctioning units, it's challenging to combat the extreme heat of 111 degrees outside.

We successfully navigated several important inspections, including our annual motor carrier surprise inspection, terminal inspection, and the 35-bus inspection, all of which we passed with flying colors. The motor carrier inspector noted that seat belt buckles should be more accessible to ensure that students who wish to use them can do so.

We've received and put into service 10 of the 11 new buses this summer—6 Blue Birds and 5 Thomas buses. Our final Blue Bird bus, Bus 86, is expected to arrive later this month.

Our fleet has undergone several upgrades: camera systems have been refreshed, WIFI systems have been inspected and updated with new SIM cards, fire extinguishers have been serviced and certified, and snow chains have been repaired.

Additionally, we've invested in professional development by sending our mechanics to training sessions provided by Bus West, Thomas Bus Dealer, and A-Z Bus Sales, our Blue Bird dealer.

Overall, it has been a highly productive summer, and I am proud of the hard work and dedication displayed by our team.

*-Tony*

Tony Aboularage, Supervisor of Vehicle Maintenance





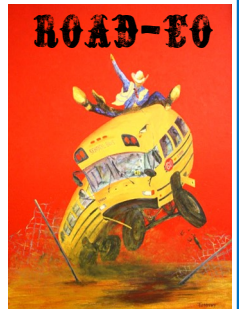
The more training and practice a driver has the safer he or she will be.

At the Road-EO drivers compete against each other using their skills in precision driving. Each event is either timed or measured to determine the score. The events consist of an obstacle course which includes backing, parallel parking, student loading/unloading, right and left hand turns, and written exams on rules and regulations and vehicle inspection.

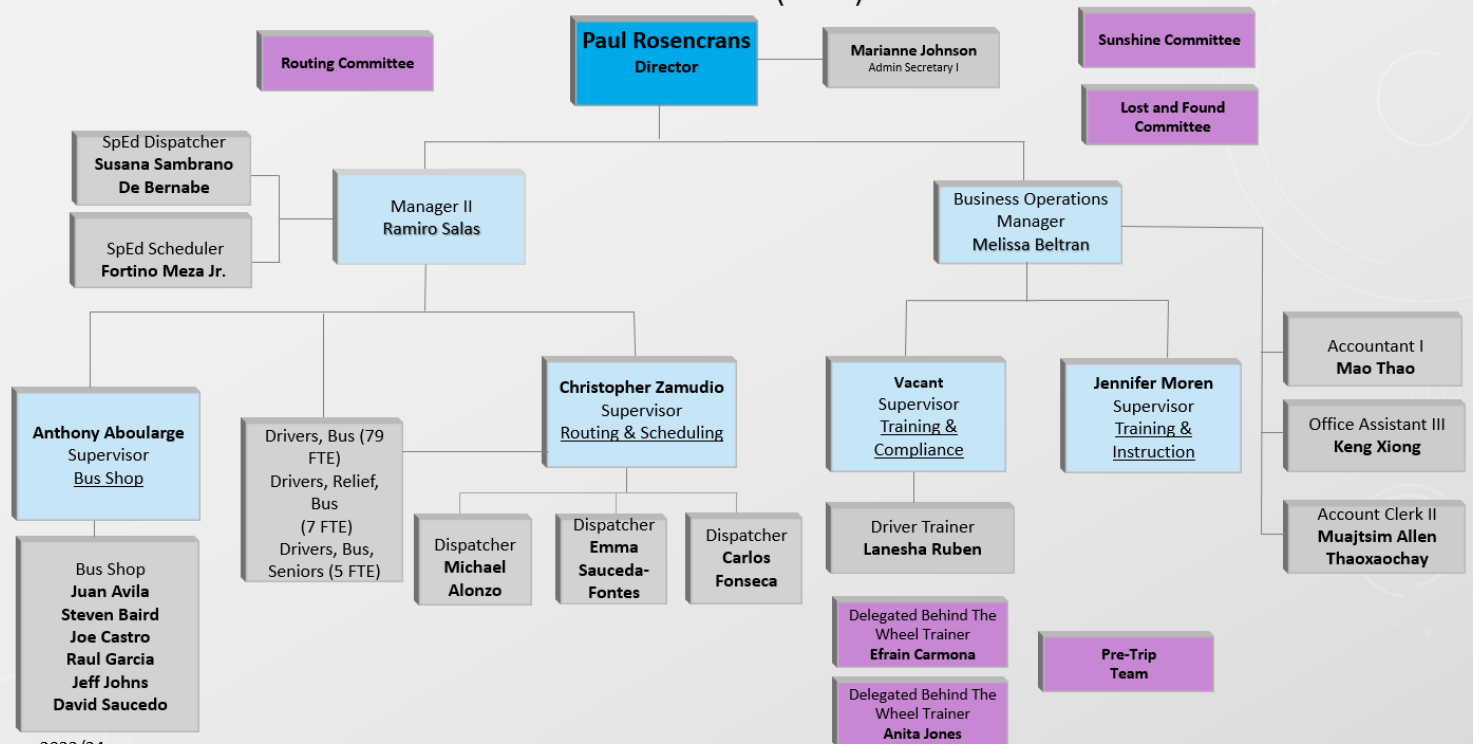
Road-EO is a great skill builder that is beneficial to the drivers, school district and the students that ride the bus.

**Fresno Unified's Team:** Christian Aguilar, Anthony Balderas, Efrain Carmona, Kellie Cavazos, Stevan Fabela, Carlos Fonseca, Elva Fonseca, Angelica Gamez, Leigh Jenkins, Ismael Lopez, Virginia Lozano, Corina Lozoya, Christina Rodriguez.

We wish our team the best of luck this year!



## TRANSPORTATION-(559)457-3138



2023/24

## Join our Team!!

[transportation.fresnounified.org](https://transportation.fresnounified.org)

4498 N Brawley Ave, Fresno, CA 93722