Getting Ahead in Transportation

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Jobs in the Transportation Industry

Did you know that in most regions of the country, the transportation industry is considered a high growth industry? This means that the number of jobs in transportation is projected to grow for the next six years, through 2022.

Because many transportation jobs are unionized, they often come with good wages and benefits. A union is an organization of workers that advocates for workers’ rights, for better pay, and for respect and dignity on the job. Thirteen of the top 20 jobs that project the most openings offer wages above the national median wage of $35,540.

The majority of projected job openings are related to operating vehicles, using loaders to handle freight and stock, maintaining and repairing equipment, and building and maintaining roads, bridges, rail, etc.

Look at the chart below to learn more about the pay scale and education requirements of the top 20 transportation jobs.

![Projected Total Job Openings of Top 20 Transportation Jobs (2012-2022): Median Wages vs. Education/Work Experience/Training Requirements]

Source: “Strengthening Skills Training and Career Pathways across the Transportation Industry,” August 2015
**Transportation, Distribution, and Logistics (TDL) Career Pathway Map**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hourly pay rate* and title**</th>
<th>Skills</th>
<th>Education &amp; time required</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Supervisor Dispatcher Analyst</td>
<td>Communication Skills, Leadership Skills, Organization and Interpersonal Skills, Computer Skills, Critical Thinking</td>
<td>Certified Logistics Technician (CLT)* Associate’s Degree</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Truck Driver</td>
<td>Reading, Mathematics, Listening, Driver Training, Communication Skills, Following Directions</td>
<td>Class A Commercial Driver’s License (CDL)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Material Handling Shipping and Receiving</td>
<td>Equipment Operation, Equipment Monitoring, Reading Comprehension, Active Listening, Communication Skills</td>
<td>Certified Logistics Technician (CLT)* Certified Logistics Associate (CLA)*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assembler Picker Packer Sorter</td>
<td>General Mathematics, Communication Skills, Reading, Listening, Equipment Usage</td>
<td>High School Diploma or Equivalent</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Base wage rate not including benefits.
** For a description of these jobs, see the next page.

Source: <centraliowaworks.org>

### Career Pathways in TDL

As the graph above shows, it is possible, with little or no training, to get an entry-level job in transportation. But in order to increase job responsibilities and salary, you need additional training and certification.

This is an example of a Career Pathway Map that shows the steps needed (education, training, work experience) to start in an entry-level job and move, over time, to higher paying jobs. This map was developed by Central Iowa Works (CIW), an organization in Des Moines, Iowa, that brings together employers, workers, and other community organizations to create pathways to career advancement and employment for community residents. This is the Career Pathway that CIW has mapped out for Transportation, Distribution, and Logistics (TDL), a subsector of the Transportation Industry with many projected job openings. We often think of planes, trains, trucks, and buses when we think of transportation. But who is moving the freight and stock to and from the factory warehouses, loading docks, and vehicles? Those are people working in TDL. (See box on next page.)
The wages listed in the Pathway Map on the previous page are specific to the Des Moines area, but the positions, skills, training, and certification requirements can give you an idea of the types of jobs and opportunities for growth that the pathway may offer in your area.

Are the career pathway steps mapped out in your workplace? In the box below, you can find some questions you can ask to learn about jobs and how to improve your skills and wages. You can also ask the staff at your adult education program to help you research careers and career pathways in transportation. Look at the pictures on p. 45. Would you like to be out on the road or go to the same place every day? Would you rather sit at a computer or be physically active? Are you afraid of heights, or do you enjoy being up high? There are so many different types of jobs in transportation that can match the type of work you’d like.

Sandy Goodman is the Director of Career Pathways at the National College Transition Network.

AFTER YOU READ: Learn more about many types of transportation jobs at <www.onetonline.org/find> and choose Transportation, Distribution, and Logistics using the Career Cluster Search.

FOR TEACHERS: Consider using this: “Lesson Plans for Reading and Writing in the TDL Career Bridge” <womenemployed.org/sites/default/files/uploads/LessonPlansTDL1HighIntermediate.pdf>