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News Release

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James A. Ditch Education Fund Established

Los Angeles, CA – The Southern California Transit Training Consortium (**SCRTTC**) announces the formation of the James A. Ditch Education Fund.

James A. (Jim) Ditch, 62, former executive director of maintenance and facilities with Long Beach Transit System (LBTS) in Long Beach, CA, died on September 24, 2009 after a battle with cancer.

Ditch was a 19-year employee of LBTS who retired in 2008. Earlier this year, the agency honored him by dedicating their Bus Maintenance Facility as the James A. Ditch Maintenance Facility and Learning Center.

He received two U.S. patents for wheelchair securement devices; his interest in mobility issues stemmed from observing the problems faced by his brother, a paraplegic.

Ditch had a strong interest in transportation training. He was one of the founders of the Southern California Regional Transit Training Consortium (SCRTTC), which develops and delivers technician training for public transit agencies.

He also implemented a mentoring program for students of heavy-duty mechanical repair at community colleges in the Southern California region. "He saw himself as this ordinary guy just doing ordinary things, but he was an extraordinary person. He was bigger than life," Long Beach Transit President and Chief Executive Officer Larry Jackson told the *Long Beach Press-Telegram*.

This fund is being established as a legacy to Jim and his past efforts to offer education opportunities for existing employees and prospective employees working for public transit agencies in Southern California.

The SCRTTC is a coalition of over 27 transit operators, community colleges and other educational institutions in Southern California, joined together to develop industry driven, competency based curriculum that meets present and future technological needs of public transit systems. The SCRTTC has been designated as a 501 (c) (3) organization, as well as a California Non-Profit Corporation.

For further information about the Consortium, please visit our website at www.scrttc.com.