

### Jody Pressley

TIMS Project Leader  
UNC Charlotte Urban Institute  
Charlotte, N.C.

#### How did you get your start in the industry?

My husband worked at the bus facility [at a school district] in Charlotte when we married. A few years later, a position opened to help the district phase in a state-supplied software sold by EDULOG that we call TIMS (Transportation Information

Management System), which was spearheaded by Derek Graham [now North Carolina's state director]. I was hired, and I did the initial start-up work by learning the software, entering stops, runs and routes as well as perfecting a digitized map.

#### What are your current job duties?

At UNC-Charlotte, I provide daily support and assistance to school districts to help promote efficient bus routes. This includes a variety of tasks, such as conducting training classes, computer and software support, phone support, and consultation with various school personnel helping districts apply various strategies or techniques to provide safe transportation for students to and from school.

#### Tell us about how TIMS works and how it benefits school districts in North Carolina.

TIMS is a system of computer-assisted bus

routing and scheduling to help school districts manage school transportation operations, and it provides tools to identify and implement efficient routing strategies.

#### What are your top professional achievements?

Watching people who I have taught and supported through the years move into management positions in school transportation, such as transportation directors/supervisors across North Carolina and nationally.

#### What are your outside interests?

We have a fully restored 1968 Chevrolet Impala that my father bought brand new. We enjoy taking it to car shows and cruise-ins. I also enjoy shopping for antiques.

#### What is the best advice someone has given you?

Keep your head down, work hard and listen to whoever is ahead of you, because you are going to learn something from them.

#### What do you find most interesting about working in school transportation?

It is all about getting children to and from school safely. There is never a dull moment!



Jody Pressley says that a top achievement of her career is watching people she has taught and supported move into management positions in the industry.

### Alex Robinson

Executive Director  
New York City Department of Education, Office of Pupil Transportation

#### How did you get your start in the industry?

In 1987, was working as a special-education teacher/behavioral therapist and was asked to "be in charge" of the behavior on the buses in Orange County, Fla.

#### What are your current job duties?

I'm responsible for the overall operation and management of the Office of Pupil Transportation (OPT) for the New York City Department of Education (DOE). I have an incredible leadership team that makes it possible.

#### What was most challenging and/or rewarding about serving as president of the National Association for Pupil Transportation [NAPT] while also working as executive director of the OPT at the New York City DOE?

Being president of NAPT has allowed me the opportunity to continue to spread my passion for what we do not worldwide. Doing so while beginning a new adventure in New York City has been a challenge but very rewarding!

#### What are your top professional achievements?

Representing NAPT in Dubai during our first international school bus conference and becoming an executive director in the largest school district in the country.

#### What are some of your outside interests?

Leadership training, learning new languages, being outside, and traveling with my hip-hop dancing 17-year-old as she goes on auditions and dance competitions.

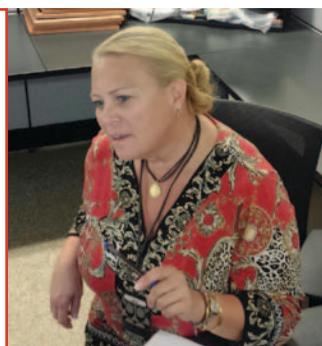
#### What is something people would be surprised to learn about you?

I fly more than 16,000 miles a month so I can work in New York City and maintain my life as a single mom in San Diego.

#### What is the best advice someone has given you?

Don't ask yourself what the world needs, ask yourself what makes you come alive and do that,

Alex Robinson says her top professional achievements are representing NAPT in Dubai during the first international school bus conference and becoming an executive director in the largest school district in the country.



because what the world needs are people who have come alive.

#### Have you noticed growth in the number of women working in leadership positions since you started in the industry?

Some since I started — still not enough!

#### What do you find most interesting about working in pupil transportation?

I find it interesting that this is such a "self-regulating" industry — the rules that govern our safety are often initiated by us. Everyone knows each other or knows how to access each other, and we share resources. It's a community where people actually want to see their colleagues succeed and whose members are genuinely happy when they do!