

B&M Railroad cited by CTI for hiring of disadvantaged

By RALPH J. JACOBS
Sun Staff

LOWELL — The Boston and Maine Railroad, which since 1974 has worked with Community Teamwork, Inc., in the hiring of disadvantaged persons, was honored yesterday in a special luncheon program, while numerous city, state and federal officials looked on.

The railroad, represented by its president and chief executive officer, Alan G. Dustin was cited by Leo F. Desjarlais on behalf of CTI skill center where many of these workers are given initial training before they are hired in the private job sector.

Desjarlais said the program, which aids disadvantaged persons finding jobs in the private sector, began in 1972 when one of the first firms to be cited was Alto Tronics of Burlington. Desjarlais said numerous other firms have been the recipient of the award since then, including Raytheon of Lowell.

The program as Desjarlais explained it, is coordinated among several agencies, including the state Division of Employment Security and the Comprehensive Employment Training Act, CETA. Presenting the award to Dustin, Desjarlais said the B and M Railroad is really a "fourth member of a partnership."

Raymond F. Rourke, deputy secretary for transportation for the Commonwealth and representing the governor yesterday also noted the "cooperative spirit" in this venture and called it "one of the many ways in which the public sector can cooperate with the private sector." Rourke said the governor is "hopeful this type of cooperation will continue in the future and will spread."

LOWELL CITY MANAGER William S. Taupier, also congratulated the B and M. The CETA and WIN (Work Incentive Program) programs pay 50 per cent of the wages for the

disadvantaged workers who are hired in the private sector.

Dustin called the venture "a particularly successful program with more than 80 individuals brought into the B and M, with most still working and carrying good jobs and good wages."

Dustin took the time to explain the railroad's as a bankrupt railroad, explaining it as the result of a series of things and some bad management over the past 15 years. "With this in mind, he said "it is obvious we could not do it if we had to pay the total cost of the program." It was at this point when Dustin said with CETA and WIN picking up 50 per cent of the wages, "this takes care of about one third of our costs."

The program, Dustin said, "allows us to greatly expand the volume of work we will be able to do in North Billerica." "With a few breaks there and a few here and the kind of help we are receiving from CETA, WIN, the CTI, the Division of Employment Services and the skill center, we will continue to pull ourselves up by our boot straps and to do a better job."

Sen. Edward M. Brooke was represented at the luncheon by Tom Reed. Others present included Warren Dillon of Mass. Dept. of Commerce and Development representing Comm. John Marino; Mrs. Dorothy Zarick, regional director of commerce and development; Joseph Walsh, deputy director of DES; Samuel Bryant, office manager, Lowell office DES; Bonnie Kissel, administrative assistant, the National Alliance of Businessmen; Roger Trottier, Sherman Stoloff and Arthur R. Kelts all of the Greater Lowell Chamber of Commerce and Victor Normand, assistant to the city manager.

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Sun staff photo by Mike Pigeon

Railroad cited

Leo Dasjarlais, center, executive director of Community Teamwork Inc., presents a plaque to Alan G. Dustin, president of the Boston and Maine Railroad,

while Raymond Rourke, deputy secretary of the state department of transportation looks on. The railroad corporation was cited for its program to hire the disadvantaged.