

## In the Spotlight

### TrANS Grad Ready to Take on New Job



Beloit resident Javonte Jones was among the 53 participants, as of 2015, that has successfully completed one of three Transportation Alliance for New Solutions (TrANS) training programs held this past year in Southwestern Wisconsin.

Jones had been unemployed and searching for steady work for over five years. He applied for many job opportunities in landscaping, retail and factories, with little success in getting hired. Jones explained, "I felt caught between a rock and a hard place in trying to find work." But then, from friends, he'd heard about TrANS. "After learning about the training offered, along with the potential career opportunities, I decided to apply for participation in the training," he said.

Jones felt that receiving this training was key to increasing his personal confidence. That's because one of the main things he learned through TrANS was to always stay professional. He's confident that the leadership and interviewing skills coupled with the many other skills he learned will not only be of value to him, it would also bring value to the company that chose to hire him.

After graduating from TrANS late last spring and with the apprenticeship readiness and job skills training under his belt, Jones was quickly hired as a Machine Operator Apprentice working on the I-39/90 Expansion Project with Rock Road Companies, Inc. As Jones put it, "I think it is wonderful that they are making an investment in my future. This job will allow me to have a greater respect for myself knowing I'm earning a family supportive wage that will provide greater opportunities for my children."

He also offers this advice for others considering entering the TrANS Program – "It is a great investment in your future and you have to make the most of it. Sit back, listen, take everything in and be serious about the process." Most of all Jones said, "Have confidence that you will find work!"