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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **FIRST TRUCK DRIVER APPRENTICE COMPLETES NEW HAMPSHIRE MOTOR TRANSPORT ASSOCIATION HEAVY DUTY TRUCK DRIVER APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM**

Kevin Boucher, a driver with Associated Grocers of New England (AG of NE) is the first driver to complete the New Hampshire Motor Transport Association (NHMTA) Heavy Truck Driver Apprenticeship Program. Mr. Boucher completed all requirements for apprenticeship on October 31, 2017.

His apprenticeship culminated an eighteen month apprenticeship program with Associated Grocers of New England located in Pembroke, New Hampshire. After completion of an apprenticeship program, the apprentice earns a nationally-recognized credential from the U.S. Department of Labor.

The genesis of this Association program started over four years ago at the 2013 NHMTA Annual Meeting. Through an industry based panel discussion, with feedback from the audience, regarding the lack of qualified commercial motor vehicle drivers identified as the single largest challenge to the Association and its members located in the state of New Hampshire.

A committee comprised of NHMTA members and chaired by Stephen Brown of Ross Express worked with US Department of Labor officials and NHMTA staff to craft an apprenticeship program aimed at attracting, training and retaining qualified drivers. The apprenticeship program officially started on November 4, 2015 and has resulted in the recognition of its first apprentice, Kevin Boucher. AG of NE where Mr. Boucher is employed is a long standing member of the New Hampshire Motor Transport Association.

Any companies or potential drivers who may have interest in learning more about the NHMTA Apprenticeship program and how it works should contact Vera at the NHMTA office.



Wynn Young, US Department of Labor, Office of Apprenticeship; Commissioner Kenneth Merrifield, NH Department of Labor; Kevin Boucher, Driver; Denis Kolehmainen, AG of NE Transportation Manager; Kevin Murray, AG of NE Director of Transportation; Robert J. Sculley, President, New Hampshire Motor Transport Association.