

NITL Engage 2023

Columbus, OH



Engage 2023

For those of you who were unable to join us at Engage this year, we wanted to share some of the highlights with you.

This was a great re-launch for NITL. While we hoped every member could join us, everyone who attended was all engaged, and the room was full, and attendees participated throughout each day of the educational sessions. This year's event was held at the Marriott Ohio State in Columbus, OH. The venue was well suited to our event, providing excellent meeting space, dining, and a great gathering place in the Knowledge Center.

The meeting room was laid out to accommodate various options. Some of us prefer desks, others round tables, etc. At the front of the room, armchairs and love seats were set up to encourage folks to sit near the stage and several attendees to take advantage of the opportunity. It offered a nice comfortable situation to learn and engage. This setting will be hard to beat in 2024.

NITL Engage 2023



Stage is set and ready to go!

Education Sessions

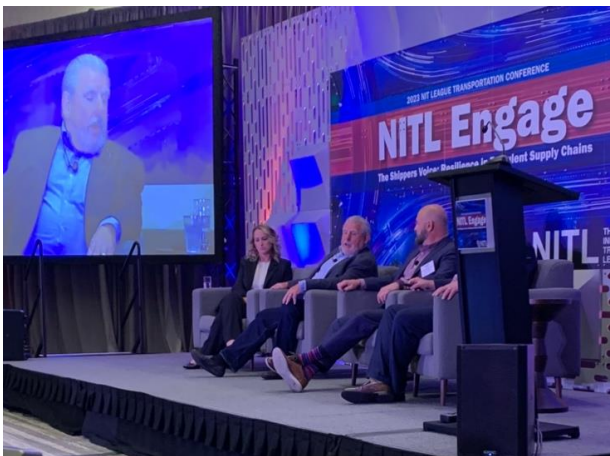
A Look Down the Road – Carrier CEO’s Speak



Leading off the Carrier CEO panel got the entire day off to a great start. The panel comprised of truckload carriers (Werner and J.B. Hunt) an LTL representative (Roadrunner) and a 3PL (DRT Transportation). The carriers were open and candid and received a number of questions and a lively discussion. A strong takeaway was the idea for a NITL initiative to assemble a committee comprised of carriers and shippers to review RFP processes and provide ideas/suggestions for improvement. The carriers spoke emphatically about the need to change and a recent study out of MIT has shown that there needs to be a revision in the RFP process. Details coming soon.

Diving into Ocean and Trucking Marketplaces

This panel provided a good overview of the ocean marketplace. All of the speakers were knowledgeable and well versed in their area of expertise. The information that was provided was beneficial.



What’s Next – The Future of Shipping and Logistics

A great session and a strong panel were assembled to speak to the issues. The rail issues discussed were important and valuable. We had a non-member shipper on that panel who is a very large parcel and ocean shipper who not only participated but joined NITL on the spot.

Does What Happens in our Nation's Capital Affect your Business?

This was a very informative session and as always Karyn and Ann did a very informative session. The presentation focused on NITL's rail initiatives, ocean committee's continued work on OSRA22, and as happens too often for this duo, the session ran out time, discussions will follow in upcoming Committee meetings.



Tech Talks

NITL's first Tech Talk Sessions was moderated by Mike Regan of TranzAct. The panel was structured to allow each presenter ten minutes to provide not only issues *but* a solution which appealed to the audience. All the panelists came prepared and kept within their allotted time.



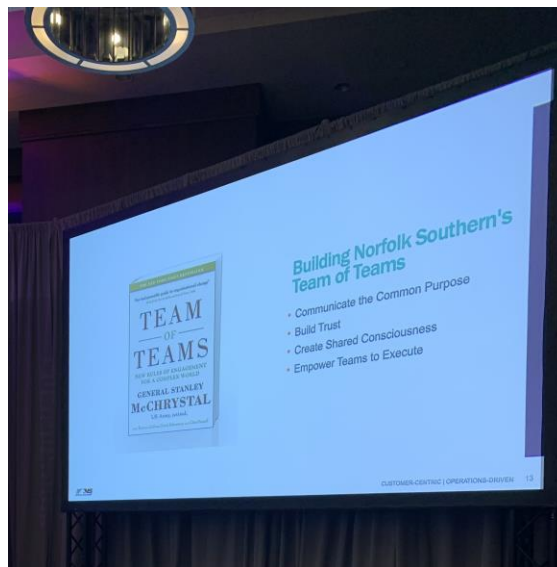
Attracting and Retaining Talent Within your Supply Chain Organization

Terry Esper from Ohio State moderated this panel. This is a very important topic which discussed solutions needed throughout the supply chain to hire retain talent.



Are We Actually in a Recession – Where are We Headed?

Walter Kemmsies provided an excellent economic update. As Walter has a strong supply chain background, he is able to integrate the economic effects on supply chains with data and conclusions that make sense to supply chain practitioners. He did a great job in making dry economic statistics interesting and occasionally humorous.



Building Resilience and Driving Growth – A Better Way Forward

NITL was pleased to have Ed Elkins, Norfolk Southern participate in the conference. Mr. Elkins was very knowledgeable and shared with us NS's strategy to reform the company. The approach to revitalizing and renewing the company was great to hear, as many NITL members move freight with NS.



Why is Sustainability in the Spotlight?

What could have been a dull session (though the information is always good and important) the speaker was very engaging and made what could have been a dull session into a lively and informative one. Session objectives were addressed and thoroughly covered.

The Supply Chain Nexus: A forward Thinking Conversation with White House, FMC, and STB

It was an honor for NITL to have Chair Oberman, STB, Commissioner Carl Bentzel, FMC and General Stephens Lyons, White House Supply Chain as our closing panel. They were engaging, interesting and didn't back away from the issues or participants questions. Karyn Booth, Esq. did a good job moderating the conversation. Kudos to NITL for assembling such a dynamic government panel.



NITL Engage 2023 demonstrated NITL is on the cusp of a “rebirth”. While NITL has primarily been known for their advocacy work on behalf of rail, ocean and highway industrial shippers, NITL Engage conference exhibited that NITL is becoming more inclusive and allowed for all attendees to feel welcome.



**Thanks to everyone
who helped make
Engage 2023 a success!**

