

IT'S TIME TO INVEST IN YOUR FUTURE!

ARE YOU READY TO POWER YOUR CAREER?

APPLY FOR THE 2026 EMERGING LEADERS CLASS



NITL

THE NATIONAL
INDUSTRIAL
TRANSPORTATION
LEAGUE

EMERGING LEADERS PROGRAM

Nominations Due February 2, 2026

ABOUT THE NITL EMERGING LEADERS PROGRAM

The NITL Emerging Leaders Program (NELP) is comprised of up-and-coming shipping industry leaders in North America who are passionate about strengthening the shipping supply chain industry and shaping the future supply chain of tomorrow.

THE PROGRAM

NELP has been designed to give emerging leaders the necessary tools, knowledge, and resources they need to prepare them for executive advancement and establish themselves as future leaders within their companies, the league and personal lives.

The Emerging Leaders Program includes NITL members from small, medium, and large size shippers and vendors who are excited to develop and enhance their leadership skills, get involved, share and network with industry peers.

Through regional events, webinars and the NITL in-person events, NELP members have an opportunity to collaborate and share their perspectives on challenges and opportunities, network with long-time shipping industry leaders, and build a network of peers, ensuring the next generation leads the shipping industry into the future with confidence and competence.

NELP HISTORY

In 2024, a group of future leaders identified a gap in opportunities to expand their networks and knowledge. Traditional avenues like industry boards and committee meetings were primarily full by those well-established in their careers. To bridge this gap, the NELP was born and dedicated to emerging professionals that would offer a platform to share valuable industry experiences, learn from seasoned executives, enhance leadership skills, and expand professional networks. The inaugural class was held in 2025 and the first class of cohorts graduated in October 2025.

ELIGIBILITY

Any NITL member who is employed in the shipping industry is eligible to be nominated/apply for the Emerging Leaders Program. NITL members include shippers moving freight via rail, ocean, and highway, and industry vendors. The NELP welcomes those new to the industry, established in their career, or the CEO of a company – all job titles and levels are eligible. The diversity of experiences within the group is what makes NELP so unique and valuable. As part of the program, you can meet a peer and discuss the same challenges you may be facing or one that can offer solutions. You will have an immediate network as well as an opportunity to rely on those seasoned leaders to learn from.

NELP aims to empower and nurture future shipping industry leaders, attract and develop new professionals to the industry, and retain transformational leaders in the supply chain industry, ensuring the industry has a strong leadership base to move forward.

DEVELOP

By delivering learning opportunities for emerging leaders within the shipping industry, we take an active part in developing and strengthening our next generation of leaders.

EDUCATE

Through educational programs, we give future leaders the skills and knowledge they need to succeed and thrive.

ENGAGE

Engaging with future leaders by providing learning and networking opportunities helps them to build their careers and enhance their presence within the shipping industry.

CONNECT

Providing communication platforms for emerging leaders to interact with their peers, system leaders, committees, and organizations will allow the group to communicate effortlessly so that they can continue to learn, share and use their networks to be successful leaders.

INSPIRE

Igniting a passion in our future leaders will bring positive outcomes to their employers, NITL and our industry.



THE NELP PROGRAM

STRUCTURE:

The NELP program consists of four major mandatory components that are required for graduation. In addition, we strongly encourage members to participate in the optional programs, which are designed to further enrich the NELP experience.

League and Industry Session:

This session is designed to provide NELP members with valuable insights into the League's structure, resources, and opportunities for involvement, while also addressing broader industry issues and challenges. This session aims to foster a deeper understanding of both the League and the industry at large, preparing members to take on future leadership roles.

Engaging with State and Federal Agencies: From Regulation

Inception to Law:

This session aims to provide NELP members with a comprehensive understanding of the role of state and federal agencies in shaping industry regulations, how these agencies function, and the process of turning an industry regulation from inception into law. Additionally, it will explore how professionals can get involved in the regulatory process, what information is critical for navigating this landscape, and why it matters to your company, employees, and the industry as a whole.

Why Congress Matters:

This session is designed to equip NELP members with the knowledge and tools to effectively engage with their Congressional delegation. It will provide a clear understanding of the legislative process, from bill introduction to becoming law, and the critical role lobbying plays in shaping policy. Participants will also gain hands-on experience through a trip to Capitol Hill and participation in the NITL Day on the Hill.

What Does It Take to Become a Leader?

This session is designed to help NELP members understand the essential traits and skills required to become effective leaders in their organizations and industries. The session will focus on key leadership qualities like core values, communication, and emotional intelligence, and will provide hands-on training on two crucial leadership skills: delivering a powerful presentation and effectively working with the media.

MEET THE ADVISORS

2025 NELP Graduates



Dan Anderson
Vice President,
Corporate Strategy
Trinity Industries, Inc.



Kris Matthews
Director,
Field Services,
Armada Supply
Chain Solutions

EMERGING LEADERS GRADUATES

Once you graduate from NELP, NITL will continue to offer webinars and networking opportunities for NELP graduates to continue build their network, learn and become leaders.

NELP Graduates may also serve as mentors for future NELP members.

PROGRAM MEMBERS & GRADUATES

Established in 2024, the NELP is comprised of high-potential emerging leaders from across North America who are making a difference in the shipping industry.



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APPLY NOW!

Email application to info@nitol.org
Questions? Call (703) 524-5011

Name: _____

Title: _____

Company: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Cell Phone #: _____

Work Phone #: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Please submit the following on separate paper:

- **Letter of Nomination from your manager or decision maker in your company.**
- **Why do you want to be a Member of the Emerging Leaders Program? (300 words or less)**
- **What is one of the top issues affecting the shipping and logistics industry?**

IMPORTANT NOTES:

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NITL will announce the 2026 class of Emerging Leaders on February 20, 2026.

In order to graduate, you must participate in the four mandatory sessions.

NITL will release dates for all mandatory sessions on March 13, 2026. They will be held once a quarter, including two in-person meetings.

There will be optional webinars and discussions throughout 2026, where both Emerging Leaders and Graduates will participate.

FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

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The cost of the NELP program is \$795 and is due by March 9, 2026.

Each NELP member is responsible for their own travel, including airfare and hotel.