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NITL Selects Emerging Leaders Program Class of 2026

Program Prepares Rising Professionals to Lead on Freight Policy and Supply Chain Challenges

Washington, DC – May 2026 – The National Industrial Transportation League (NITL) today announced the Emerging Leaders Program Class of 2026, the second cohort of the League's flagship professional development initiative designed to prepare rising professionals for leadership roles in freight transportation and industrial shipping.

The year-long program equips participants with the leadership, policy knowledge, and communication skills needed to navigate the increasingly complex supply chain environment. Through four immersive sessions, participants explore key transportation policy issues, develop executive leadership capabilities, and gain practical experience in industry advocacy.

A cornerstone of the program provides participants with an inside look at how Congress and federal agencies shape transportation policy, helping emerging leaders better understand the regulatory and legislative processes that affect the supply chain industry.

Participants also engage in interactive workshops, mentorship with industry leaders, and specialized training in presentations and media communication to strengthen their ability to represent their companies, NITL and the overall industry.

"Our industry faces complex policy and supply chain challenges, and strong leadership has never been more important," said Nancy O'Liddy, Executive Director of NITL. "The Emerging Leaders Program is helping prepare future industry leaders with the policy insight, leadership skills, and advocacy experience needed to help shape the future of transportation and logistics."

We are grateful to Armada Supply Chain Solutions as the sponsor of the Program, supporting emerging professionals by investing in their growth and development.

The fourteen members of the Class of 2026 represent nine companies across nine states and have an average age of thirty-eight. The cohort highlights the strong pipeline of talent across the supply chain industry. NITL is proud to introduce the Emerging Leaders Program Class of 2026:



- Liberty Baugher, Director of International Logistics, Armada Supply Chain Solutions
- Mark Boksa, Senior Commercial Credit Officer, CIT Rail – A Division of First Citizens Bank
- Rosalinda Brinkmeyer, Road Contract Transport Manager, Shell Oil Company
- Greg Brown, Director, Procurement, Armada Supply Chain Solutions
- Michael Christiansen, Sr. Manager, Transportation Procurement, Armada Supply Chain Solutions
- Jace Ewing, Assistant Vice President of Business Development, Road & Rail Services
- Rachael Hileman, Commercial Credit Officer II – VP Underwriting, CIT Rail – Division of First Citizens Bank
- Ryan Hubert, Director of Transportation Operations, Armada Supply Chain Solutions
- Keith Nestman, Director of Marketing & Client Engagement, Escalation Consultants, Inc.
- Adam Poling, Transportation Account Manager, NUCOR Logistics
- Mitch Pettit, Risk Advisor, Arthur J. Gallagher Risk Management Services, LLC
- Carson Pester, Asset Manager – Rail, CHS Inc.
- Jim Shields, Operations Excellence Manager, Tucker Company Worldwide
- Kevin Tritt, Capacity Development Manager, Tucker Company Worldwide

The Emerging Leaders Program reinforces NITL's longstanding mission to advance the interests of industrial shippers and strengthen the voice of the freight transportation community in Washington and across the nation.

We are honored to have past co-chairs, Daniel Anderson (Trinity Industries, Inc.) and Kris Matthews (Armada Supply Chain Solutions) as our advisors, both who helped shape the program.

About NITL:

The National Industrial Transportation League (NITL) is a trade association since 1907 whose mission is to advance the views of shippers on industrial freight transportation issues and advance their professional development. NITL membership is comprised of companies engaged in the rail, maritime, and highway industrial freight transportation sectors who are committed to the competitive, efficient, and safe movement of goods across the United States and beyond.

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