

NALC Leadership Academy



Beginning the next phase

Latest graduation marks milestone on path to union leadership

NALC President Fred Rolando presided over the graduation ceremony for the eighth Leadership Academy class December 11 at the National Labor College in Silver Spring, Maryland, a few miles north of Washington, DC.

The commencement event capped several months of intensive training on the skills necessary for union members to become effective leaders. Under the tutelage of their mentors—established NALC leaders such as branch presidents or national business agents—the students combined three separate weeks of classroom learning

at the labor college with take-home assignments and special projects.

“These men and women showed a true commitment by getting involved and finding out what it takes to make a difference in the lives of our hard-working letter carriers,” Rolando said later.

The 30 participants, two from each of the NALC’s 15 regions, now add their names to an ever-lengthening list of successful graduates of the academy, which was created in 2005. Retired NALC Executive Vice President Jim Williams and Jim Korolowicz, a former national assistant secretary-treasurer, collaborate with Director of Education Jamie Lumm to coordinate a well-rounded and effective curriculum. The trio also taps a number of NALC officers and Headquarters staff members and



The Leadership Academy

Region 1

Craig S. Bishop
Branch 133
Elk Grove, CA

Karen Eshabarr
Branch 214
San Francisco, CA

Region 2

Anthony B. Christensen
Branch 347
Salem, OR

Matthew Pierce
Branch 82
Portland, OR

Region 3

Reenai E. Mason
Branch 319
East St. Louis, IL

Montago “T” McCraney
Branch 608
Maywood, IL

Region 4

Cynthia Kirby
Branch 47
Arvada, CO

Carlos Villalobos
Branch 1902
Arizona Merged

Region 5

Stephanie Stewart
Branch 352
Des Moines, IA

Jeffrey Rainey
Branch 30
Blue Springs, MO

Region 6

Walter McGregory
Branch 2184
Taylor, MI

David L. Mudd
Branch 14
Brandenburg, KY

Region 7

Scott A. Dulas
Branch 114
Duluth, MN

David L. Sersch
Branch 507
Madison, WI

Region 8

Avery Duncan
Branch 62
Chattanooga, TN

Gregory L. DeLoach
Branch 197
Shreveport, LA

Region 9

Robert P. Covino
Branch 578
Savannah, GA

Alfred J. Micieli Jr.
Branch 4716
Naples, FL

Region 10

Earl A. (Tony) Boyd Jr.
Branch 421
San Antonio, TX

Elnita M. Kindie
Branch 283
Houston, TX

OPPOSITE PAGE:

Top: Retired Executive Vice President and Leadership Academy coordinator Jim Williams congratulates the participants on completing their course of studies.

Below: Members of the Leadership Academy's eighth class thank the NALC Executive Council for the opportunity given to them.

experts to prepare lectures and lessons on a wide variety of topics.

During the group's final week in Washington last month, students took part in often lively discussions on such subjects as the Dispute Resolution Process, strategic planning, branch financial responsibilities, retirement issues, the National Agreement, DOIS and route protection, workers' compensation, effective negotiation techniques, and convincing others to step up as union leaders.

And to make the most of their time in the Washington area, Academy students also came together after their dinner breaks to learn about conducting one-on-one campaigns, interest-based dispute resolution, and group dynamics.

Each week of the Academy also includes an ongoing emphasis on effective written and verbal communication skills in such forums as membership meetings, awards ceremonies and dinners, as well as written reports and oral presentations about their "take-home" projects.

Next up

President Rolando has also announced the names of those selected to be members of the ninth Leadership Academy (see list below). This next batch will begin its "semester" later this month, plus two more week-long sessions at the labor college in March and June.

"Every time we open up the application process for the Leadership Academy, we receive scores of forms from highly qualified candidates," Rolando said. "Picking just 30 is hard. But even this selection process teaches two valuable lessons: that leaders are often called upon to make difficult choices all the time, and that real leaders keep trying again and again."

"Being an effective union leader means learning how to balance work life and family life," said Rolando. "Bringing these folks to Washington and keeping them busy like this gives them a real taste for what they could be in for as branch, state and regional leaders." ✉



Above: NALC President Fred Rolando tells the graduates that they have big expectations to fulfill.

Below: Carol Rasmus of Elizabeth, New Jersey Branch 67 receives her completion certificate.



Class of Winter/Spring 2010

Region 11

Don Cook
Branch 3
Elma, NY

Timothy J. Sheehan
Branch 358
Queensbury, NY

Region 12

Daniel Dannemueller
Branch 84
Pittsburgh, PA

Chuck Goushian
Branch 540
Runnemede, NJ

Region 13

Emmanuel V. Senesie, II
Branch 142
Bowie, MD

Julie Wells Mitchell
Branch 443
Inwood, WV

Region 14

Timothy Roberts
Branch 44
Bedford, NH

Ronald P. Augustus
Branch 57
Bristol, RI

Region 15

Scott Williams
Branch 42
Jersey City, NJ

Joseph F. Bukowiecki
Branch 693
The Bronx, NY