

# NALC Leadership Academy



## Leading by example

### Latest graduates challenged to help save their Service



**L**etter carriers will depend on the next generation of NALC leaders to weather a difficult time of transition. Some of those future leaders may emerge from the group that graduated from the NALC Leadership Academy on May 12 after completing several months of in-depth training.

Presiding over the graduation ceremony, NALC Vice President George Mignosi told the 30 graduates that they face challenges unlike any leaders before them.

“The Postal Service is struggling with a transition of historic proportions,” said Mignosi, “and it’s hobbled by its own management. That’s why our leaders need to step up. You are the people who know how the Postal Service really works and what needs to get done, and now you are even better equipped to lead the charge.”

Some graduates may be called upon to use their leadership abilities as branch, regional or national officers, but Mignosi stressed that just standing up and leading by example were essential first steps. “Your impact can be felt just by talking to your fellow letter carriers, by leading lobbying efforts, by writing letters to the editor, by encouraging support for COLCPE,” he said. “When politicians and the public really understand what’s happening and hear our message, they will support us, but we have to reach them at every level.”

Since 2005, the Leadership Academy has given scores of letter carriers the opportunity to sharpen their communication and leadership skills and their expertise on union affairs. The students cram a great deal of learning activities into a short amount of time at the Academy. With the help of branch officers

## The tenth Leadership Academy

### Region 1

**Desiree Holder**  
Branch 4114  
Camarillo, CA

**Michael Yanez**  
Branch 4430  
Lancaster, CA

### Region 2

**Sharee Eschenbacher**  
Branch 442  
Spokane, WA

**Michael Touchet**  
Branch 130  
Tacoma, WA

### Region 3

**Karen A. Ceska**  
Branch 11  
Chicago, IL

**Lori A. Roudebush**  
Branch 318  
Moline, IL

### Region 4

**Lyn Liberty**  
Branch 576  
Phoenix, AZ

**Ami M. Nawrocki**  
Branch 229  
Pueblo, CO

### Region 5

**Anthony Gesell**  
Branch 512  
Waterloo, IA

**J. Anthony Mitchell**  
Branch 827  
Independence, MO

### Region 6

**Robyn M. Castro**  
Branch 320  
North Oakland Co., MI

**Timothy E. Scroggs**  
Branch 116  
Fort Wayne, IN

### Region 7

**Robert D. Ahnen**  
Branch 619  
Green Bay, WI

**Brent R. Fjerestad**  
Branch 491  
Sioux Falls, SD

### Region 8

**Pamela R. Colston**  
Branch 530  
Birmingham, AL

**Glenn Gilbert**  
Branch 448  
Anniston, AL

### Region 9

**Christina Vela Davidson**  
Branch 382  
Durham, NC

**Wayne Gilbert**  
Branch 4057  
Warner Robins, GA

### Region 10

**David W. Colgrove**  
Branch 421  
San Antonio, TX

**Cruz Munoz**  
Branch 181  
Austin, TX

and national business agents who act as their mentors, students—two from each of NALC’s 15 regions—discuss a host of issues in both day and evening sessions.

During their three one-week, on-site sessions at the National Labor College campus in Silver Spring, Maryland, students cover issues like dispute resolution, branch finances, retirement, the National Agreement, DOIS, route adjustment, negotiating strategies, written and verbal communication, running campaigns, and motivating others. In between the weeks in the classroom, the students reinforce their learning by completing take-home projects and presentations.

“My sincere thanks go to the letter carriers who devote their efforts to bring their experience and ideas to the table and who do the hard work necessary to convey our union, and our Service, to a new generation,” said NALC President Fred Rolando. “Thanks also to their mentors, who recognized the potential within these men and women and who are passing on their knowledge.

“The Leadership Academy continues to enhance the capabilities of our future leaders—and gives them a taste of what it takes to serve in a role that affects so many letter carriers and their families,” Rolando said.

A new batch of Leadership Academy participants begins its work this month (*see list below*), starting with their first week-long session in Silver Spring, with two more sessions in October and December to follow.

Rolando praised the incoming students for their commitment and willingness to sacrifice their time in service to their fellow letter carriers.

“We receive applications from a great deal of highly qualified candidates for the Leadership Academy, and it’s not easy to pick 30,” Rolando said. “But the process of choosing always makes me confident about the future of our union, because it’s clear many devoted letter carriers are eager to go the extra mile and develop their leadership talents for the good of us all.” ✉



**Opposite page: NALC Vice President George Mignosi stood with the latest group of graduates from the Leadership Academy.**

**Above: Mignosi told the graduates that they need to lead by example to help NALC and the Postal Service survive during the trying times ahead.**

**Below: Jeffrey Rainey received his completion certificate.**



## Class of Summer/Fall 2010

### Region 11

**Mike Hayden**  
Branch 100  
Toledo, OH

### Kenneth A. Montgomery

Branch 210  
Rochester, NY

### Region 12

**Edward Klaiss Sr.**  
Branch 920  
Bux-Mont, PA

### Brian C. Strobel

Branch 22  
New Castle, PA

### Region 13

**William Bessicks**  
Branch 191  
Wilmington, DE

### William H. Whiting Jr.

Branch 247  
Tidewater VA

### Region 14

**Michael Bordogna**  
Branch 362  
Natick, MA

### Scott Martin

Branch 18  
Southeast Mass. Mgd.

### Region 15

**Roberto Perez**  
Branch 36  
New York, NY

### Joseph S. Rutkoski

Branch 38  
New Jersey Mgd.