

# NALC Leadership Academy



## Young taps fall 2009 class

**T**he 30 letter carriers who will take part in the next session of the NALC Leadership Academy, beginning in August, have been named by President William H. Young.

The Academy program is designed to cultivate a broad range of skills in participants and is a key component of the effort to nurture next-generation leadership for the union.

“We have to keep looking to the future,” Young said. “These men and women have the potential to inspire others, lead by example, and deal with both the problems and the opportunities that we know will come our way. This program will nurture those talents.”

*(The fall 2009 class, with two members from each of the NALC’s 15 regions, is listed on the following page.)*

President Young created the Leadership Academy in 2005. Former Executive Vice President Jim Williams and retired Assistant Secretary-Treasurer Jim Korolowicz serve as lead Academy facilitators, and they work with Director of Education Jamie Lumm to keep the wide-ranging curriculum fresh and relevant.

The months-long Academy agenda features rigorous classroom training supplemented by challenging individualized take-home projects, which are monitored and reviewed by “mentors”—current union leaders, usually branch presidents, who pledge to support the students through the Academy process.

For the classroom component, participants spend three separate weeks at the National Labor College in suburban Washington, DC, just a few miles north of NALC Headquarters. National officers and Headquarters staff members lead class sessions on topics in their fields of expertise, and supervise exercises that help put classroom learning into practice. Subjects range from the history of the union and the NALC’s legislative and political agenda to contract administration and an ask-



Opposite page: President Young poses for a photo with the spring 2009 Leadership Academy class after a Q-and-A session.

Right: Three Academy participants work together on an assignment.

Photos courtesy of Darcie Gardea



the-president discussion of current and long-range issues facing the union.

Communications skills, written and verbal, are a major part of each class week's work—both public speaking for such forums as membership meetings, awards ceremonies and dinners, and the written reports students must provide about their “take-home” projects, which are critiqued in detail by Academy facilitators.

During this fall's session, the classroom component at the labor college will take place August 10-14, October 5-9 and December 7-11.

Participants have been put on notice that they will be challenged from day one. “We don't make it easy to be in the Leadership Academy,” Young said. “Students must learn how to balance their class responsibilities with their work and family obligations. Union officers face that kind of balancing act every day, and these folks shouldn't have any illusions about what they're getting into.”

As this issue of *The Postal Record* was being prepared, the first class of 2009 Academy students was heading into its final week of classroom work, set for June 1-5. In addition to a review of their projects, the agenda included branch finances and reporting obligations, diversity in the NALC, the Route Protection Program and negotiating techniques.

### New applicants sought

Applications for the 2010 Leadership Academy are now being accepted. The form is posted on the NALC's website at nalc.org and is available from National Business Agents. In order for candidates to be eligible for 2010 training, forms must be postmarked by September 30.

**Please note:** Previous applicants must reapply and include updated information, along with a renewed commitment from their mentors. ✉

## Leadership Academy Class of Fall 2009

### Region 1

**Lydia Caffrey**  
Branch 52  
San Luis Obispo, CA

**Christopher Burson**  
Branch 1291  
Modesto, CA

### Region 2

**Ricky Horton**  
Branch 916  
Eugene, OR

**Betty Nash**  
Branch 82  
Portland, OR

### Region 3

**Debra Blake-Moench**  
Branch 1151  
Naperville, IL

**Luis Rivas Jr.**  
Branch 2076  
Des Plaines, IL

### Region 4

**David Hodgson**  
Branch 458  
Oklahoma City, OK

**Jeffrey Staggs**  
Branch 1123  
Lawton, OK

### Region 5

**Kevin Pettit**  
Branch 69  
Sioux City, IA

**Charles Walls**  
Branch 5  
Omaha, NE

### Region 6

**Sharon Patterson**  
Branch 1624  
Crown Point, IN

**John Serwach**  
Branch 3126  
Royal Oak, MI

### Region 7

**Randy Dillon**  
Branch 2  
Milwaukee, WI

**Joel Malkush**  
Branch 1532  
S. St. Paul, MN

### Region 8

**James Boling**  
Branch 892  
Florence, AL

**Michael Jenkins**  
Branch 197  
Shreveport, LA

### Region 9

**Elisabeth English**  
Branch 2591  
DeLand, FL

**Francisco Pecunia-Vega**  
Branch 1128  
Fayetteville, NC

### Region 10

**William Hoagland**  
Branch 181  
Austin, TX

**Frank Moffitt**  
Branch 3993  
Garland, TX

### Region 11

**Mike Mize**  
Branch 43  
Cincinnati, OH

**Michael Sharp**  
Branch 385  
Youngstown, OH

### Region 12

**Steven Chmiel**  
Branch 17  
Scranton, PA

**Brian Thompson**  
Branch 22  
New Castle, PA

### Region 13

**Justin Smeltzer**  
Branch 2611  
Silver Spring, MD

**Antoine Vaughn**  
Branch 176  
Baltimore, MD

### Region 14

**Richard Marchetti**  
Branch 15  
Providence, RI

**Robert Van Etten**  
Branch 33  
MA North Shore

### Region 15

**Thomas Crispino**  
Branch 425  
Hackensack, NJ

**Carol Rasmus**  
Branch 67  
Elizabeth, NJ