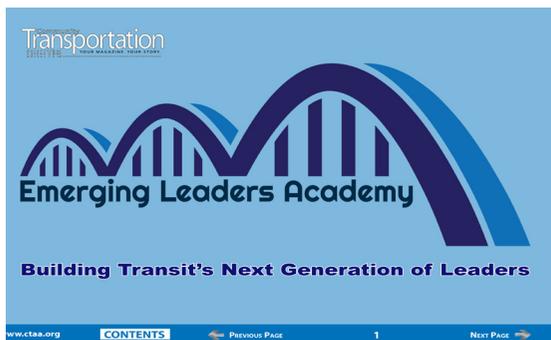


Elements of Transit Leadership Emerge Through A Range of Experiences

Last summer, we published an edition of *DigitalCT* – [Building Transit's Next Generation of Leaders](#) – that focused on the early stages of the first class of CTAA's [Emerging Leaders Academy](#) (ELA). In its pages, we provided an overview of the ELA concept from its co-directors – Dr. Barbara K. Gannon and Michael Noel – as well as extensive profiles of its four mentors: Ann August, CCTM; Connie Garber, CCTM; Lenna Kottke; and Rick Krochalis



Now, more than eight months after that issue of *DigitalCT*, we've returned to the ELA to uncover the experience of the group of participants as they near the completion of their year-long leadership journey. Beginning on [page 11](#), five current ELA participants share their background in their

organizations, impressions of the ELA process and progress in their ongoing capstone projects that are a key component of the Academy.

Meanwhile, starting on [page 6](#), Dr. Gannon and Mr. Noel offer their thoughts in overseeing the ELA's first class from their enrollment last spring to wrapping-up this June at [EXPO 2018](#) in Pittsburgh. Stay tuned later this year as we catch-up with the debut ELA participants after they've graduated from the program, as well as snapshots of the 2018-2019 class (*for which enrollment is still open; visit the ELA web page for full details*).

CTAA launched the ELA last year to leverage the leadership skills and collective knowledge of the many pioneers who founded the community transportation industry more than four decades ago to help guide and inspire the next generation of leaders who will succeed them.

By sharing lessons learned – along with their challenges, questions and solutions – we multiply the value of the ELA to extend beyond those enrolled in the program, although those participants realize the most immediate benefits of the Academy.

In addition to chronicling the shared ELA experience to date, this edition also connects with CTAA members demonstrating elements of leadership in two very different, but equally important situations. On [page 18](#), we share the story of the Senior Resource Association in Florida's Indian River County and how their CEO – CTAA's Florida state delegate, Karen Deigl – is navigating budgetary constraints surging demand for their Community Coach para-transit service while providing trips without a fare to both fixed-route and demand-response passengers. At the same time, on [page 23](#), we highlight new employment transportation options that have been created across South Carolina through pilot project investment from the state's Department of Employment and Workforce.

Finally, analysis produced by CTAA staff – starting on [page 29](#) – explores the leadership demonstrated by members of Congress and their staff as they significantly increased investment in buses and bus facilities was included in the recent Omnibus budget appropriations bill. Likewise, details emerging from the Volkswagen Environmental Mitigation Trust presents opportunities for transit leaders to augment existing vehicle capital funding programs with this one-time – but still significant – source of investment.

These three sections of this edition of *DigitalCT* illustrate the breadth and depth of circumstances requiring or facilitating elements of leadership. CTAA's portfolio of programs and resources are available to augment and support leaders and advocates in improved mobility options best utilize their skills and serve their communities. **CT**