



May 2, 2013

Dear Colleagues,

I am pleased to announce that the Leadership APTA program is now accepting applications for the Leadership APTA Class of 2014.

We recently made some refinements to the program's target audience and a related new requirement upon graduation. Earlier this spring, I communicated this news to many of APTA's public and private sector executive leaders. This letter highlights these program refinements and changes.

We recognize that you may have some questions. We will do our best to address your questions through this letter, the Leadership APTA web site, and a planned webinar.

Program Overview

Leadership APTA remains the American Public Transportation Association's premier professional development program. This program is designed to develop and support those experienced managers and leaders aspiring to hold senior and executive leadership positions in APTA, their organizations, and the public transportation industry. Candidates for Leadership APTA should show the promise and potential to be part of executive teams, the 'chief's' suite, and other senior leadership positions.

Following its sixteen year history of great success and accomplishments, Leadership APTA is ever committed to identifying and selecting a diverse, broad-based group of highly motivated and dedicated industry professionals from among our membership to participate in this industry recognized leadership program. Over these many years, Leadership APTA has become the path to prepare an individual to join the senior and executive leadership of APTA and public transportation industry.

Members of the Leadership APTA Committee are entrusted to select each class. A goal of the Leadership APTA Committee is to select 25 individuals from among APTA member applicants representing the public, private, and other sectors of its membership. Those selected participate in an intensive year-long program that includes skill-building workshops, conferences, executive roundtables, class leadership projects, special assignments, teleconferences, online meetings, and web-based events.

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Earlier this year, I met and discussed some of the refinements to the program's target audience and a new requirement upon graduation with a number of APTA members' senior executives. These senior and executive leaders agreed with and supported our recommendations. Subsequently, the Leadership APTA Committee members further discussed and reviewed these refinements and changes.

Following are highlights of the target audience refinements plus a new requirement upon graduation. For further details, I recommend that you visit the Leadership APTA web site at www.apta.com/leadapta

Highlights – Target Audience Refinements

Candidates applying to Leadership APTA need to demonstrate the potential to be a strong and effective leader. Candidates need to be at a director-level/equivalent position or higher, department or division head/equivalent, and at a high enough level in your organization where he or she can speak with confidence to the goals, priorities, and major issues your organization is addressing. Please note, titles and names for the various roles stated above may change from one organization to another. Yet, the point we make is that applicants to the program are well on their way to becoming part of your senior/executive ranks.

In addition, candidates for Leadership APTA need at least 10-15 years of significant work experience. This experience might be gained from the public or private sector or other work arenas. This work experience does not need to just come from transit. It may come from other industries. However, included in the 10-15 years of work experience, a candidate must have at least three years of transit industry experience, plus a proven track record of demonstrated successes.

New Program Requirement

Candidates applying for the Leadership APTA Class of 2014 now need to be able to become actively involved in APTA immediately upon graduation. They need to have the drive and desire to serve on APTA committees and task forces in areas of interest and benefit to them and their organizations. They need to be willing to eventually assume leadership roles in committees, working groups, and task forces.

We fully recognize that travel budgets are tight. Active involvement in APTA can be accomplished through participation in conference calls and online working sessions along with some face-to-face meetings.

We also need to remember that Leadership APTA is about building the future leadership of APTA. A graduate's active participation in APTA will lead to high visibility opportunities to serve as the leadership of APTA committees, sub-committees, task forces, and special initiatives, and some day, to potentially serve on APTA's Board of Directors and its Executive Committee.

Reminder to my Fellow Executive Leaders

We know that you have many qualified candidates you would like to nominate for Leadership APTA. The Leadership APTA Committee strongly recommends that individual organizations submit only one candidate as your applicant for the Leadership APTA Class of 2014.

Leadership APTA Class of 2014 Deadline: COB Monday, June 24, 2013

Online Application Materials

The online application packet has several required components. Application materials must include the following: a completed online application form and profile information; a 750-word essay; a resume including current and past positions and experiences that includes timelines; two letters of recommendation; and a committee/task force/area of interest upon graduation. All application materials must be submitted online. Please note, this year, we reduced the essay length from 1000 to 750 words.

As stated in the application, take time and care to prepare your essay. The essay is your conversation with the members of the Leadership APTA Committee who select the Class of 2014. Answer the three application questions. Ask someone to read your essay to make sure you addressed the application questions. Be sure your letters of recommendation include substantive examples of your successes and can speak to your future in our industry. Lastly, keep your resume to two-to-three pages.

For program and application details, please visit: www.apta.com/leadapta

Planned Webinar

In a few weeks APTA plans to post a webinar to its web site that reviews the program, its requirements, and some of the details of the application process. Please stay tuned to the Leadership APTA web site for the upcoming posting.

Next Steps

A goal of Leadership APTA is one of excellence and continuous improvement. APTA, the Leadership APTA Committee, and the industry are proud of our 375 plus graduates and their contributions to their own organizations, to the industry, and to APTA.

We hope this letter and the Leadership APTA web site provide you with a better understanding of the refinements and changes to this very prestigious and important industry program. We look forward to many of you applying to the Leadership APTA Class of 2014.

Leadership APTA 2014

May 2, 2013

Page 4

If you have further questions, please contact APTA's Joe Niegoski, director-educational services and staff member responsible for Leadership APTA. Joe can be reached at jniegoski@apta.com; phone (202) 496-4870.

We look forward to a very exciting year for the Leadership APTA program and the Leadership APTA Class of 2014.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John M. Lewis, Jr.", written in a cursive style.

John M. Lewis, Jr.
Chair, Leadership APTA