



American Short Line and Regional Railroad Association

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ASLRRRA Launches Short Line Education Fund

Fund will support education, industry training and certification programs

Washington, DC – April 7, 2017 – Today the American Short Line and Regional Railroad Association (ASLRRRA) announced the creation of a Short Line Education Fund to address industry training and certification needs; communicate and promote the value of short line railroads to decision makers, customers and industry stakeholders; and build a library of industry-specific research, education and training materials.

“It has become evident to our Board that short lines are facing some of the most complex challenges this industry has seen in many years, including new training rules, new technology implementation such as PTC, and new equipment considerations for HAZMAT transport, all during a tough economic market,” said Linda Bauer Darr, President, ASLRRRA. “The Education Fund will provide critical support for high priority industry education and training initiatives, build a foundation of short line data and industry research, and award scholarships to small railroads so they may attend industry events and access educational resources – all without taxing our members with further dues increases.”

Priority initiatives currently slated for advancement include:

- developing curriculum for an industry-specific executive leadership program;
- expanding webinar production abilities and enhancing offerings to include expert speakers and specially-developed content;
- implementing an online learning management tool to offer tests and certifications based on industry training templates;
- creating communications tools to grow/expand industry awareness and support advocacy efforts (e.g. industry fact book, industry primers, interactive website tools, etc.);
- facilitating research on the economic impact of the short line regional railroad industry on related industries, key customers, and the nation's economy.

As a 501c3 nonprofit organization, the Short Line Education Fund may accept tax deductible donations from individuals and corporations. Additional, immediate support will come from proceeds of a Silent Auction held at the upcoming ASLRRRA 2017 CONNECTIONS Convention. For information about the Fund, or to make a tax deductible contribution or donate an item to the auction, please contact Sabrina Waiss swaiss@aslrra.org, 202-585-3434.

About ASLRRRA - The American Short Line and Regional Railroad Association (ASLRRRA) is a non-profit trade association representing the interests of the nation's 550 short line and regional railroads and railroad supply company members in legislative and regulatory matters. Short lines operate 50,000 miles of track in 49 states, or approximately 38% of the national railroad network, touching in origination or termination one out of every four cars moving on the national railroad system, serving customers who otherwise would be cut off from the national railroad network.