

Rutherford business leaders among first class at Transit Academy

Written by

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NASHVILLE — Rutherford County business leaders Peter Demos and Paula Mansfield are among the first class to attend a Transit Citizen Leadership Academy that started today, Lipscomb University announced.

Demos is president and attorney for Demos' Steak and Spaghetti House and the incoming chair of Rutherford County Chamber of Commerce, according to the news release. Mansfield is vice president for sales and development at First Tennessee Bank.

Responding to mass transit needs and options in Middle Tennessee, the Transit Alliance of Middle Tennessee and Lipscomb University's Nelson and Sue Andrews Institute for Civic Leadership is launching its first Transit Citizen Leadership Academy. Nashville Mayor Karl Dean is scheduled to deliver welcoming remarks to the class.

"Each member of the inaugural class of the Transit Citizen Leadership Academy will

join the ranks of Middle Tennessee pioneers who have, are and will make our region an even better place to live, work and relax," Ed Cole, executive director of the Transit Alliance of Middle Tennessee, said in the news release.

The inaugural class includes 33 private, public and nonprofit leaders representing economic and community development, real estate, construction, government, insurance, health care, banking, retail, sales and marketing, agriculture and utilities. Participants were nominated by mayors and city managers throughout the region.

"If there is a lesson to be learned from the devastating floods of 2010, it's that our region is at its best when we all pull together as a community," Charles Bone, chairman of the Transit Alliance of Middle Tennessee and a member of the Leadership Council of the Andrews Institute, said in the news release. "And just as we pulled together as a community to address that natural disaster, we must do the same if we' region's transportation issues."

Linda Peek Schacht, executive director of the Andrews Institute said Lipscomb University, said in the news release she is honored to partner with the Transit Alliance to focus on the important issue of transit for the first Citizen Leadership Academy.

"Thriving communities depend on educated and informed civic leaders working together to make decisions on the complex issues facing communities today," she said. "We want to support and encourage that kind of collaborative leadership through this partnership."

About the Transit Alliance of Middle Tennessee

The Transit Alliance of Middle Tennessee is a nonprofit organization with the mission of encouraging private sector as well as public sector support for new **investments** in mass transit in the 10-county region of Middle Tennessee.

The Alliance is committed to communicating the value of regional mass transportation needs and options. It fosters **education** across the region about the economic value of mass transit investments.

Through these communication and education efforts, the Alliance will actively participate in the steps necessary to secure dedicated revenues for mass transit investments in the months and years ahead.

About the Andrews Institute for Civic Leadership

Founded in October 2010 to build on the legacy of Nashville leader Nelson Andrews, the Nelson and Sue Andrews Institute for Civic Leadership engages emerging and current leaders in programs to create thriving communities. The institute promotes and showcases government, business and not-for-profit leaders working together for the common good. Its programs provide for the study and practice of this collaborative civic leadership model. In addition to our community programs, the Andrews Institute offers a master's program in civic leadership, one of only two in the nation.