



2025

RAILWAY MANAGEMENT CERTIFICATE PROGRAM



Center for Railway
Research and Education
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

SCHEDULE

Four individual weeks of classroom and site visits link to online support with assigned instructors responsible for mentoring the learning experience. A Certificate in Railway Management will be awarded on completion of the program. Each week starts Monday at 8 a.m. and runs through Friday noon. Hotel accommodations are provided Sunday through Thursday nights.

MODULE ONE: Railway Business Administration, Strategy, and Leadership

April 28 - May 2, 2025

MSU Campus • East Lansing, Michigan

MODULE TWO | Railway Regulation, Safety, and the Rail Industry

June 23-27, 2025

Washington, DC • Newark, NJ/New York, NY

MODULE THREE | Railway Technology, Research and Development

September 8-12, 2025

Pueblo, Colorado

MODULE FOUR | Railway Operations

November 3-7, 2025

Chicago, Illinois

Schedule and content subject to change

This program builds on the groundwork established by **Nicholas (Nick) Little**, former Director of Railway Education, whose efforts and leadership have greatly contributed to its current form. Nick's commitment to excellence in education continues to inspire our work each and every day.

OVERVIEW

MSU's four-week **Railway Management Certificate Program** is the only North American program that covers the breadth and depth of the complex railway industry ecosystem from both a conceptual and practical business perspective.

The program is aimed at individuals in the rail industry with the potential to become senior managers and leaders in their organizations.

Content is applicable to the whole rail industry: freight and passenger railroads, transit authorities, industry & regulatory agencies, suppliers, and shippers. Critical and topical subjects are covered in a classroom setting with interactive discussions. Site visits aid learning and include railroad facilities, customers, suppliers, associations, and agencies.

The program was developed by **MSU Railway Management Program** staff, evaluated and improved by a curriculum committee of railroad industry leaders. Subject matter experts for the program include distinguished railroaders, transportation industry leaders and experienced MSU faculty.

COST

The price per participant is \$18,500 with a \$500 reduction for registration and payment by the early bird cut off date (February 28, 2025). Discounts are available for multiple participants from the same firm. The price includes instructional materials, faculty and staff support, overnight rooms, and daily breakfast and lunch. Transportation to and from the Program, and dinner most nights are not included.



Online registration: exced.broad.msu.edu

Note: to utilize the best in adult learning practices, class size will be limited to thirty participants.



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FACULTY AND SPEAKERS

VAL KUCHERENKO, FACULTY LEADER

is the Director of Railway Education, Center for Railway Research and Education (MSU/CRRE). Before joining the CRRE team, Val built a career in supply chain management with Canadian Pacific Kansas City Railway (CPKC), C.H. Robinson Global Forwarding, and Maersk Line, spanning roles across Europe, the United States, and Canada.

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY FACULTY

from the #1 ranked University for both graduate and undergraduate Supply Chain Management programs for many years (US News & World Report).

Subject matter experts will join for guest lectures and presentations.

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For more information on MSU/CRRE
and our research, please visit:

raileducation.com

MODULE **1** **2** **3** **4**

MSU CAMPUS • EAST LANSING, MI



RAILWAY BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION, STRATEGY, AND LEADERSHIP

APRIL 28 - MAY 2, 2025



Center for Railway
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MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY



TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

MONDAY

Strategy, Transportation, and Supply Chain Management

TUESDAY

Marketing and Customer Experience

WEDNESDAY

Site Visits

THURSDAY

Leadership, Negotiation and Change Management

FRIDAY

Risk Management, Future Opportunities

ONLINE

Finance and Accounting

Schedule and content subject to change.

For the latest schedule please email: kucheren@msu.edu



SITE VISIT INFORMATION

Regional/short line railroad, major rail customer loading facilities, economic development sites (subject to availability)



COST

\$5,250

- Includes instructional materials and site visits, faculty/staff support, overnight hotel rooms, daily breakfast and lunch
- Transportation to and from the program, and dinner most nights are not included
- Discounts are available for multiple participants from the same company and for early registration
- To utilize the best in adult learning practices, class size will be limited to thirty participants



PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

A stand-alone module of our established and highly respected Railway Management Certificate Program offering a mix of lectures, site visits, group exercises and subject matter expert presentations. This residential five-day program covers the essentials of business administration, strategy, and leadership for both freight and passenger railways. We combine classroom presentation of concepts by MSU faculty experts with discussions led by rail industry experts, and with site visits to see topics in context. Railway Business Administration, Strategy and Leadership brings together many aspects of the complex railway ecosystem.



KEY LEARNING OBJECTIVES

By the end of the program, participants will:

- Understand the strategic complexity of the Railway Industry
- Learn principles of strategy and risk management
- Learn key elements of transportation theory, concepts, and application (both freight & passenger)
- Explore principles of marketing applied to rail services
- Examine key leadership skills
- Understand basic elements of finance and accounting
- Appreciate the role railways play in supply chain management and mobility, including key drivers such as inventory, timeliness, customer experience, reliability, and flexibility



WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

- Managers/leaders requiring learning opportunity beyond their experience and/or who have had limited business administration education
- Transportation and functional managers with capacity to perform at higher levels
- Shippers and suppliers needing to learn about the business of railroading to build better relationships to improve performance, communication and understanding
- Staff in rail industry organizations, regulatory/public policy agencies, states and other transportation groups
- Railroad hires and interns

MODULE 1 2 3 4

WASHINGTON, DC • NEWARK, NJ/NEW YORK, NY



RAILWAY REGULATION, SAFETY AND THE RAIL INDUSTRY

JUNE 23-27, 2025



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MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY



TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

MONDAY

Transportation and Rail Industry Structure

TUESDAY

AAR, STB, FRA and others

WEDNESDAY

ASLRRA and Amtrak

THURSDAY

Site Visits

FRIDAY

Industrial Relations and Summary

Schedule and content subject to change.

For the latest schedule please email: kucheren@msu.edu



SITE VISIT INFORMATION

Washington, D.C.: Industry and regulatory units

Newark, NJ: Port Yard operations and customers



COST

\$5,250

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PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

A stand-alone module of our established and highly respected Railway Management Certificate Program offering a mix of lectures, site visits, group exercises and subject matter expert presentations. This residential five-day program covers the critical topics of safety and regulation. We visit Washington, DC to meet with AAR, STB, FRA and several other organizations to learn how they set and oversee policy, rules and standards. We also travel to Newark, NJ to observe vital aspects of railway operations, such as port integration and intensive passenger service management.



KEY LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Participants in the certificate program will have:

- Learned how to create and maintain a safety culture
- Gained a better understanding of the importance of railroad security
- Knowledge of the role of Federal Government and others in safety, regulation, and policy
- An understanding of freight railroad economics, data analytics, and technology development and standards
- An understanding of how a major port works and its rail interfaces
- Discussed ways forward for the future North American rail industry
- Explored issues potentially impacting road to rail modal shift



WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

- Railroad superintendents, trainmasters, and middle managers from transportation and support functions with capacity to perform at higher levels
- Managers/leaders with limited railroad industry education requiring learning opportunities beyond their experience
- Shippers and suppliers needing to learn about the business of railroading to build better relationships to improve performance, communication and understanding
- Staff of rail agencies, regulators, policy bodies, and state/local government
- Railroad hires and interns

MODULE 1 2 3 4

PUEBLO, CO



RAILWAY TECHNOLOGY, RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

SEPTEMBER 8-12, 2025



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TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

MONDAY

R&D policy, vehicle dynamics, brake systems

TUESDAY

On site at R&D facility

WEDNESDAY

Rail Rolling Mill Visit; Locomotives and Rolling Stock topics

THURSDAY

On site at R&D and Laboratory facility

FRIDAY

R&D Practical Issues and Summary

Schedule and content subject to change.

For the latest schedule please email: kucheren@msu.edu



SITE VISIT INFORMATION

R&D and Testing Facility



COST

\$5,250

- Includes instructional materials and site visits, faculty/staff support, overnight hotel rooms, daily breakfast and lunch
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- To utilize the best in adult learning practices, class size will be limited to thirty participants



PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

A stand-alone module of our established and highly respected Railway Management Certificate Program offering a mix of lectures, site visits, group exercises and subject matter expert presentations. This residential five-day program covers the essentials of railway engineering and technology with a managerial perspective. We combine classroom presentation of concepts with discussions led by rail industry subject matter experts and site visits to see railroad technology and R&D in action. Railway Engineering and Technology bring together many aspects of the complex railway ecosystem.



KEY LEARNING OBJECTIVES

By the end of the program, participants will have improved their understanding of the following engineering and technological topics, which can impact managing today's and tomorrow's railroad:

- Railway Engineering, Technology, Research and Development Policy
- Vehicle Dynamics
- Infrastructure - Track, Bridges, and other structures
- Motive Power and Rolling Stock
- Concepts of Railway Control and Signaling / Communications
- Hazardous Materials and Incident Response
- Applications for telematics and sensors

WHO SHOULD ATTEND?



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MODULE 1 2 3 4

CHICAGO, IL



RAILWAY OPERATIONS

NOVEMBER 3-7, 2025



Center for Railway
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TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

MONDAY

Chicago, Operations Models, Capacity

TUESDAY

Site Visits

WEDNESDAY

CREATE and CTCO Visit, Non-US Operations, Amtrak

THURSDAY

Railcars, Locomotives and Leasing, Decision-Making and Analyst Viewpoint

FRIDAY

Conclusion and Summary

Schedule and content subject to change.

For the latest schedule please email: kucheren@msu.edu



SITE VISIT INFORMATION

Railway installations, CREATE passenger rail control centers plus suppliers industry.



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PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

A stand-alone module of our established and highly respected Railway Management Certificate Program offering a mix of lectures, site visits, group exercises and subject matter expert presentations. This residential five-day program covers the strategy and management of railway operations for both freight and passenger railways. We combine classroom presentation of concepts with discussions led by rail industry subject matter experts, with site visits to see these topics in context. Railway Operations brings together many aspects of the complex railway ecosystem.



KEY LEARNING OBJECTIVES

By the end of the program, participants will have:

- A better understanding of the importance of Chicago's complex rail network and how traffic flow is managed
- Learned about different operating models and practices, for dedicated and mixed traffic applications
- Examined dispatch/control centers and communications
- Visited passenger and freight operating venues in Chicago
- An understanding of major freight customer requirements and operations integration
- Learned about locomotive and railcar availability, maintenance, and design implications for managers
- Improved understanding of lease vs. buy options
- Learned how better decision-making improves performance
- Heard first-hand from a Wall Street analyst about the current state of the freight rail industry



WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

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