



ASLRRRA Scholarships Benefit Individuals – And Others Too

Experience is valuable, but it can also give a false sense of security that is dangerous in an industry like railroading. **Training benefits individuals at all levels, something Florida Central Railroad (FCEN) Assistant Roadmaster Lionel Thompson knows well.**



Lionel Thompson, an assistant roadmaster at ASLRRRA member Florida Central Railroad, received a Doug Golden Scholarship through the ASLRRRA Short Line Education Fund that helped pay for an important training course.

receives includes information he can share with his colleagues – concrete knowledge that is supplemented by a renewed awareness of the importance of constantly reviewing regulations.

And, from a more practical perspective, funding opportunities like these support a small railroad's bottom line. As Thompson noted, "This scholarship definitely eased the burden of the cost for training, lodging and traveling expenses. We are a relatively small short line railroad, so any additional funding to help us get better is greatly appreciated."

Enabling railroad employees to attend training courses helps prevent complacency and can have a positive ripple effect on the company's operations. ASLRRRA is happy to support its members and their employees with the help of generous donors like former board member and retired Carolina Coastal Railway President Doug Golden.

Thompson received a Doug Golden Scholarship through the ASLRRRA Short Line Education Fund, which helped him and FCEN pay for a University of Tennessee-Knoxville Railroad Track Inspection and Safety Standards Course last November.

"It's always good to freshen up on your regulations knowledge. This training reminded me why it's important to always go and reread the regulations and/or consult with someone in the profession. It is great for beginners and veterans in the field – I can guarantee that everyone leaves knowing more than when they first came in," said Thompson.

These scholarships and the training they subsidize are beneficial to more than individual employees. As an assistant roadmaster, Thompson leads a five-person track team responsible for repairing and maintaining 200 miles of track, as well as performing required inspections. The training he