

Introducing Future Port Leaders: AAPA's PPM Foxtrot Cohort and PPA Candidates



March 27, 2025

AAPA and the Professional Development Board welcome the newest participants in our prestigious professional development programs: the Port Professional Manager (PPM®) and the Port Professional Associate (PPA®). These programs foster leadership excellence and industry expertise within the maritime and supply chain sectors.

This year's PPM Foxtrot Cohort brings together a diverse group of 13 professionals, each selected through a competitive process highlighting their achievements and potential in port management. Over the next few years, these candidates will engage in an immersive learning experience that includes coursework, hands-on projects, and collaboration with industry experts. This journey will refine their leadership skills and prepare them to navigate the evolving challenges within the industry. Congratulations to the members of the PPM® Foxtrot Cohort.

- Andy Powell, Port of Port Arthur, Deputy Director
- Brett Milutin, Port of Galveston, Executive Deputy Port Director
- Brevan G. Elliott, Port Authority Cayman Islands, Deputy Port Director
- Daniel Koesema, Port of Corpus Christi Authority, Director of Channel Infrastructure
- Ethan T. Perry, Port of Ridgefield, Deputy Port Director
- Jackie Q. Carter, Port Milwaukee, Port Director
- Jaime Villanueva, Pacific Maritime Association, Northern CA Area Director
- Jake Schuchmann, Port of Long Beach, Acting Director of Maintenance
- Jordan Greer, RWE US Offshore, Port Development Management
- Kile Alford, Port Everglades, Assistant Director of Capital Projects
- Lizeht Zepeda, Port of Richmond, Senior Business Assistance Officer
- Nikki Padilla, PortMiami, Seaport Operations Manager
- Robert Healy, Port of Tacoma, Senior Manager, Environmental Programs

We also welcome this year's PPA® candidates, emerging professionals with less than five years of managerial experience eager to develop critical skills that support career advancement and industry excellence. The PPA® program offers an annual credential that helps participants gain essential industry knowledge, receive mentorship from experienced port leaders, and earn credit hours toward a future PPM certification.

- Edmond J. Perkins, Port of San Diego, External Community Relations Partner
- Ericka C. Ventura-Garcia, Port Everglades, Contract/Grant Administrator Senior
- Lachelle A. Edwards, Port of Port Arthur, Public Affairs & Communications Manager
- Normagene Dmytriw, Port Everglades, Risk Manager
- Nikki M. Padilla, PortMiami, Seaport Operations Manager
- Stephen J. Flanagan, The Port Authority of New York & New Jersey, Senior Marine Operations Terminal Representative

The Pasha Group is the official sponsor of AAPA's port professional development programs. If you are interested in joining these programs or have questions about the PPM[®] or PPA[®], contact [Julie Barelas](mailto:jbarelas@aapa-ports.org) at jbarelas@aapa-ports.org.