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## SHORT LINE SAFETY INSTITUTE PROMOTES JULIA LEONE, PhD TO NEW POSITION

*Leone's Contributions to the SLSI Have Led to an Expanded Role*

**WASHINGTON – August 27, 2025** – The Short Line Safety Institute (SLSI) announces the promotion of Julia Leone, PhD to Assistant Director, Research and Organizational Development recognizing her significant contributions to the SLSI's programs.

In her newly expanded role, Dr. Leone will lead efforts to continually improve delivery processes and outcomes for all of SLSI's programs in addition to leading the research efforts of the SLSI.

Her work in developing a systematic approach to evaluating outcomes of completed Safety Culture Assessments (SCA)s has not only ensured the fidelity of the SCA process, but has led to insights that have driven new programs offered by the SLSI. Research outcomes have also led to adjustments in processes and deliverables to continually improve the efficacy of SCAs for railroads.

"Our program expansion has come as a direct result of research led by Julia Leone. Improvements to processes leading to improved training outcomes have also been identified and implemented through her analysis and in-person observations," said Tom Murta, Executive Director, Short Line Safety Institute. "Julia will continue to assist the SLSI in identifying and developing the next generation of programs, while ensuring that current programs deliver on their objectives, and support our mission to continuously increase Safety Culture on railroads across the country."

In her tenure at SLSI Dr. Leone has presented research to a variety of industry groups including the Transportation Research Board, and has been a featured speaker at industry rail events.

“In my five years of service at SLSI, I’ve seen rapid growth in programs as a result of SCA fidelity studies and analysis of participant feedback from all of our offerings,” said Julia Leone. “It’s been an honor to assist railroads in their quest to continuously improve safety culture. I’m particularly looking forward to fully implementing follow up coaching calls with SCA participants to track progress against identified gaps.”

Dr. Leone holds a PhD in Industrial and Organizational Psychology, an MS in Industrial and Organizational Psychology, and an MPhil in Psychology from the Graduate Center, CUNY, N.Y., and a BA in Psychology from Honors College, University of Arizona, Tucson, Ariz., where she graduated Magna Cum Laude.

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About SLSI - The Short Line Safety Institute (SLSI) is a non-profit corporation that conducts Safety Culture Assessments, provides Hazardous Material Instructor, Leadership Development and Structured Problem Solving programs. The SLSI is the educational, training and research source for short line and regional railroads concerning safety culture.

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