

Thought Leaders Series Explores Top Ten Critical Facilities Issues

Excerpts from the Executive Summary

The recently released Thought Leaders report, *University Facilities Respond to the Changing Landscape of Higher Education*, has been very popular with educational facilities managers.

This report stems from APPA's first annual Thought Leaders Summit on the changing landscape of higher education. A group of 20 educational leaders identified seven trends affecting higher education's future and related these trends to the top 10 issues affecting facilities professionals.

Published by APPA's Center for Facilities Research (CFaR), the summit report details the Thought Leaders' insight and vision on the future of higher education in regard to the stewardship of campus buildings and infrastructures. Download the report free at www.appa.org.

Trends outlined in the report include:

- financial constraints
- competition
- changing demographics
- demand for innovation and tradition
- changing stakeholder expectations
- accountability
- resistance to change

The top ten critical facilities issues identified are:

1. resource scarcity and affordability
2. performance measures and accountability
3. customer service
4. information technology
5. developing the lab and classroom of the future
6. facility reinvestment and total cost of ownership

7. workforce management and demographics
8. sustainability
9. energy and environmental resource management
10. safety, security, and business continuity

APPA intends to host annual Thought Leaders Summits over the next several years to provide the industry with greater depth on these trends and issues. The second Thought Leaders Summit will be April 23-25 in Fort Worth, Texas. A select group of university presidents, provosts, trustees, and senior facilities officers at state universities, private research institutions, community colleges and small seminars will be invited to participate.

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