



The theme for the APPA 2009

conference, held July 8-10 in Vancouver, British Columbia, is Focusing on the Critical Few. APPA's Professional Development Committee, led by Vice President David Gray, noted that "amid the constant change in educational facilities, a critical few issues remain constant. APPA 2009 will focus on these issues that surround everything you do as an educational facilities professional." The major tracks will focus on the following:

- Influence/Leadership/Communication
- Disciplines/Accountability/Expectations
- Sustainability
- Total Cost of Ownership

We have crafted this issue of *Facilities Manager* to touch on some of these topics. We're pleased to include interviews with keynote speakers Chip and Dan Heath and Michael Abrashoff, as well as the focus article on applying the lean approach to process assessment and continuous improvement.

Also in this issue is a look at the creation of Cornell University's Climate Action Plan, developed as a result and support of the American College & University Presidents Climate Commitment. In addition, Past President Alan Bigger gives us a valuable perspective on surviving through difficult economic times. And we've included a glimpse of the active and varied conversation that goes on among the 1,000-plus subscribers of the APPAinfo discussion list.

Finally, we'd like to remind you of the APPA staff members who serve you throughout the year and support your college, university, school, district, museum, business partner, or other educational facility. ☺

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- Profile of 2009-10 President Polly Pinney
- Award for Excellence Institutions
- Effective & Innovative Practices Award Winners
- APPA 2009 Highlights
- APPA's 2008-09 Annual Report

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