



# APPA 2010 BOSTO

*an  
Exciting  
Conference is  
Readied  
for*

**By Douglas A. Riat**

*to register  
for APPA 2010,  
visit [www.appa.org/training/  
appa2010](http://www.appa.org/training/appa2010).*

At no time in recent memory have educational facilities professionals faced the challenges being experienced today. Likewise, APPA's role in developing facilities professionals into effective leaders and addressing key topics has never been more important in shaping our future. APPA's premier annual conference, APPA 2010 in Boston, Massachusetts, will focus on several key issues we face; the *economy, sustainability, energy, succession planning, and safety and security*. APPA 2010 will not only explore these important topics in detail, but the collaboration and interaction with peers makes this conference an unmatched value among the critical choices we make in the year ahead to better support the educational mission we serve.

Here's an advance look at what APPA 2010 will offer:

- An opportunity to become engaged and learn about the impact on higher education as endowments shrink and state tax support diminishes from a panel of educational experts answering audience questions.
- Get a 360-degree perspective of the importance of LEED, the impact and influence USGBC has on the movement to a greener environment and the facilities to support it.
- Look at "best practices" from throughout the educational community and from a "Czar" point of view regarding energy.
- Hear research findings regarding safety and security that will guide educational facilities and ideas about how best to plan. In addition, the importance of cohesive communication from the point of planning to execution for the safety of the campus environment will be explained.

Finally, invitations for a panel of experts from Virginia Tech, Northern Illinois University, and Columbine High School have been made to participate in a discussion on moving past tragedy.

In addition to an outstanding conference, the venue for APPA 2010 could not be better than the Seaport Hotel and World Trade Center. The first-class Seaport facilities are located right on the waterfront less than 10 minutes from Logan International Airport.

#### **DESTINATION: BOSTON**

The city of Boston is a great destination loaded with history. For instance, explore 16 nationally significant historical sites by

catching the Freedom Trail tour just outside the hotel. Or, have fun shopping on Newbury Street, dining in Boston's North End, or visiting the nearby New England Aquarium, Institute of Contemporary Art, or the Children's Museum. Both conference attendees and spouse/guests will enjoy experiencing all of Boston's attractions and unique activities.

This year's conference will include professionals who represent K-12, community colleges, and public and private four-year institutions. As facilities professionals we share a common mission, and likewise we share similar challenges. In a difficult economic environment we all naturally make budget cuts and sacrifices, and we are asked to do "more with less." A difficult economic environment also results in uncertainty and changes that can be difficult to adjust to, because change takes us out of our normal comfort zone when a feeling of security is needed most.

#### **REINVIGORATING SPEAKERS**

The APPA 2010 conference speakers will address the critical issues and current trends, topics relative to our daily challenges as well as future planning. In addition to technical information, you will be "reinvigorated"—motivated to inspire others and instill a culture of positive change. Particularly in the current economic environment, our goal should not be solely to survive, but to tap and develop the full potential of our people in an effort to deliver our core services in a more efficient and effective manner. Another benefit of this conference is the interaction with peers, where we learn some of the most valuable ideas and proven strategies from our colleague's best practices and lessons learned. Finally, the APPA 2010 Hall of Resources provides a wealth of product and service information at our fingertips, experts interested in solving our most complex problems and developing lasting partnerships.

Good leaders and managers know that implementing change, achieving increased efficiencies, and maintaining a first-class service culture in this economic environment takes much more than simple phrases or good intentions. If you are looking for innovative concepts, proven strategies, and a better understanding of changing trends, APPA 2010 is the conference you can't afford to miss. More importantly, APPA 2010 will help you hone and develop strong leadership skills, essential to achieving goals and directing your organization successfully.

There are challenges ahead for all of us. As you balance the critical choices ahead, the opportunity to better understand current trends and potential solutions to today's challenges could not be timelier, or the need for strong and effective leadership development more important. So join us to hear experts and interact with colleagues. I believe you'll find the educational programming very informative and Boston a great destination, and I look forward to seeing you at APPA 2010. ☺

Doug Riat is director of facilities operations at the University of Kansas, Lawrence, KS, and is the chair of the APPA 2010 programming committee. He can be reached at [driat@ku.edu](mailto:driat@ku.edu). This is his first article for *Facilities Manager*.