January 2010 marked another successful APPA professional development offering with the Institute for Facilities Management in Indian Wells, California. The week welcomed highly engaged attendees from all across the APPA membership – to include Egypt, Hong Kong, and Pago Pago. We also were reminded of the popularity of this premier professional development offering as we welcomed 44 new attendees.

As the cornerstone of APPA’s professional development offerings, the Institute continues to deliver content in the core areas of general administration, operations & maintenance, energy & utilities, and planning, design and construction which prepare our colleagues for their daily campus challenges. We appreciate the dedication of the Institute deans: Mary Vosevich, General Administration, Jay Klingel, Operations & Maintenance, Lynne Finn, Energy & Utilities, and Don Guckert, Planning, Design & Construction. Their oversight and direction showed through with the variety of course offerings that provided broad range of topical material for the facilities professional. Students had the opportunity to interact with experts who brought not only their knowledge, but their experiences from vast backgrounds, which provided a rich environment.

As the week drew to a close we celebrated with ceremonies for the Class of January 2010. Sharing the achievement with old friends and new colleagues made for a great evening.

Kudos to all those institutions that supported the professional development of your staff! Now, like never before, we must take a leap of faith and spend on behalf of our institutions. This is no time to pinch pennies! The professional development of any individual must be as customizable as the individuals themselves – and APPA is here to help you achieve your departmental goals. Please visit www.appa.org/training for more information on all of our programming offerings.

We look forward to seeing you and your staff at the next APPA event!

Suzanne Healy is APPA’s director of professional development; she can be reached at suzanne@appa.org.