

Community colleges in the United States are experiencing an all-time high in enrollment numbers, demands on space, and valued perception. Unfortunately, however, despite the construction of some new and expanded facilities, community colleges are not being funded at the demanding levels required to match, or even come close to meeting, the current needs and programs being offered.

The theme of Sustaining Community Colleges for this issue has several meanings. It relates to the support that is needed for community colleges to be successful, but it also refers to how community colleges are sustaining the communities in which they are located. And the focus of many of these articles on environmental sustainability is no accident; the more an institution plans for and invests in energy and environmental programs, the greater long-term benefit to the college.

The articles in this issue discuss actual concepts and processes that are being successfully applied to community college facilities, and which contribute to their viability and value. You will find several case studies discussing specific projects that are underway or have been completed. You'll learn about the Illinois Green Energy Network and how all 48 community colleges are working together to improve that state's energy effectiveness.


APPA President Darrel Meyer questions if we are engaging our community college members the best we can, and alternately, if they are utilizing APPA resources in the most effective manner. Other writers discuss the ways in which we can build a business case for sustainability projects, and provide guidance for streamlining your carbon emissions inventory. We also strongly urge you to use, and contribute to, the new SEED Center website (www.theseedcenter.org),

developed by the American Association of Community Colleges, for sustainability education resources.

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With this issue we introduce a new column on energy-related issues. Power Tools will be coordinated and sometimes written by long-time APPA business partner member Bill Johnson, vice president at the environmental and engineering firm Haley & Aldrich.

Our goal with this new column is, in Bill's words, "to bring you unique planning, design, and implementation solutions to energy-related issues" and to help educational institutions "get the best return on energy investment." We will present articles written by your fellow facility professionals, whose insight and expertise will provide solutions to the questions and concerns you deal with every day related to energy, utilities management, and environmental sustainability.

The new Power Tools column will appear three times per year (January/February, May/June, and September/October issues) and alternate with Matt Adams' Facility Asset Management column. If you have any particular topics or questions that you'd like covered in future columns, please let us know. 



Coming in July/August 2011

- Special distribution at the APPA 2011 conference in Atlanta
- Operational Guidelines: Custodial, Grounds, Maintenance
- Excerpts from the forthcoming revised editions of APPA's staffing guidelines publications

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