



APPA: The Gathering Place

By Leon J. Bivens Sr., EFP

The field of facilities management is emerging, and offers many dynamic career growth opportunities, especially in the education sector. With the responsibility of providing service to diverse populations of students, faculty, and staff members, along with maintaining affirmative connections to local communities, our challenges include finding acceptable resources for continued career growth.

With more than 5,200 educational facilities management professionals, and 1,500 member universities, colleges, private and public K-12 schools, museums, libraries, and other organizations dedicated to learning throughout the United States and abroad, APPA is a partner organization that provides a broad range of services to professionals who are engaged in the field of educational facilities management. Members comprise—but are not limited to—technicians, supervisors, managers, directors, vice presidents, and business partners. Whether you're new to the field of educational facilities management or a seasoned specialist, APPA's resources offer a spectacular opportunity to develop and expand your skills, connect with its ever-growing network of facilities professionals, or utilize its vast bank of knowledge-based research, best practices, industry guidelines, and focused publications, to find creative solutions to impending issues.

MANY FORUMS IN MANY PLACES

Throughout its rich 99-year history, APPA has long been considered “the



gathering place for those of us engaged in the field of educational facilities management.” It offers innovative, cutting-edge professional development, education/training programs, and credentialing throughout its U.S. and Canadian regions. In an effort to expand its presence, APPA has expanded to other countries throughout the world, to include Mexico, Egypt, Israel, Saudi Arabia, Thailand, Finland, France, Ecuador, Republic of China, South Africa, England, Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Cyprus, the British Virgin Islands, the West Indies, Australia, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Kampuchea, Laos, Malaysia, New Zealand, Philippines, Singapore, Taiwan, and Vietnam.

APPA promotes leadership in educational facilities through a variety of forums that address trends, issues, and best practices in educational facilities

management. Some of the expansive and ever-evolving venues for career growth and expansion include professional development, education/training, and credentialing. APPA also offers a knowledge bank of research, best practices, creative solutions, industry guidelines and focused publications; an international network of professionals and colleagues including regional, state, and local chapters; career assistance through its Job Express and Resume Bank; and finally, international awards and recognition programs specifically for educational facilities.

One of APPA's core goals is to elevate facilities professionals into influential leaders in education by transforming individual facilities professionals into higher performing leaders—it achieves this through APPA U, which provides professional develop-

APPA U

EACH APPA CREDENTIAL, OR CERTIFICATION, ALLOWS EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES PROFESSIONALS TO DEMONSTRATE A CAREER COMMITMENT TO ONGOING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT.

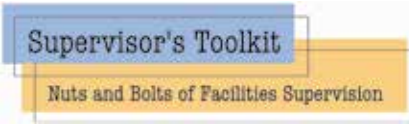


ment opportunities through its many venues and are considered the industry standard for educational facilities professionals.

The foundational **Institute for Facilities Management**, which is offered twice per year (January & September), affords facilities professionals the opportunity to receive additional training in four career-enhancing core areas: energy and utilities; planning, design, and construction; general administration and management; and maintenance and operations.

APPA's **Leadership Academy** "enhances and further develops leadership throughout the educational industry. The Leadership Academy provides opportunities for professionals to increase their awareness of industry issues, to learn the skills necessary to handle today's changes, and to discover the leadership potential within each of us." The program is designed with four tracks, and each one emphasizes a different perspective and type of leadership skill. The four tracks of the Leadership Academy consist of: 1) Individual Effectiveness Skills; 2) Interpersonal Effectiveness Skills; 3) Managerial Effectiveness Skills; and 4) Organizational Effectiveness Skills.

The **Supervisor's Toolkit** provides exceptional learning opportunities in the "nuts and bolts of facilities supervision." This program delivers a diverse range of modules that train facilities supervisors in areas that are not only



critical to their respective departments, but ultimately have an impact on student recruitment and retention, faculty and staff productivity, and the overall institutions for which they work. Credentialing programs, as provided by APPA, may be considered the gold standard for educational facilities professionals and are available in a variety of areas, or certification levels.

Members of APPA may seek qualification as an **Educational Facilities Professional (EFP)**, or **Certified Educational Facilities Professional (CEFP)**.

The EFP certification is designed for individuals who may be considered emerging facilities professionals. Conversely, the CEFP is intended to provide further credentialing for qualified individuals who have achieved a minimum of five years in educational or non-educational facilities related work. Each APPA credential, or certification, allows educational facilities professionals to demonstrate a career commitment to ongoing professional development and continuous improvement. It expands professional knowledge and industry understanding among educational facilities professionals, and provides the ancillary benefit of demonstrating that the campus facilities organization is comprised of qualified, competent, and learned professionals. This con-

tributes to the sustainability of campus operations, and provides an incentive for

employee recruitment and retention by characterizing the organizations' interest in developing its most valued asset—its staff members.

PERSONAL JOURNEYS

On a personal note APPA, ERAPPA (Eastern Region), and MD/DCAPPA (our local chapter) have been good for our institution, the University of Maryland Eastern Shore. We have utilized many of the training programs with great results. One of our members has attained EFP recognition, which adds credibility to the physical plant. Our management team has become more effective in supervising staff by including them as team members. This has been a great morale booster. Although we have limited resources we continue to lower our carbon footprint as well as our energy use by following APPA's best practices.

There is only one thing left to say...Become a member of APPA today and begin a relationship with a great network of peers who care and who are willing to share their successes to help your organization to grow and their failures so you will make fewer mistakes. I hope you are as excited about APPA as I am. If you know someone who could benefit from a membership with APPA, give them a call or send them an e-mail inviting them to join you as a member. ☺

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