



Leveraging Our Strategic Alliance Partnerships

By Randolph Hare



APPAs vision “to become a global partner in learning by fostering competency, collaboration, and credibility for the facilities profession” cannot be fully achieved without leveraging our strategic alliance between the Tertiary Education Facilities Management Association (TEFMA), the Association of University Directors of Estates (AUDE), and the Higher Education Facilities Management Association (HEFMA). Our vision statement commits APPA to fostering collaboration, and the critical issues facing educational institutions know no boundaries. To quote author and business consultant Ken Blanchard, “None of us is as smart as all of us.”

A GLOBAL SCOPE

As we share information regarding facilities management operations and maintenance, construction practices, funding models, energy efficiency, and sustainability, we are in a better position to address the critical issues facing our institutions. Academic institutions are becoming much more global in their outreach. The recruitment of students and faculty is becoming more global in scope. Our academic institutions must prepare students for the global economy. So it's incumbent upon facilities departments to avoid a parochial outlook and to carefully align our mission to support the global outreach of our institutions.

TEFMA

To offer a personal perspective, I had the opportunity to represent APPA at the

TEFMA Conference in August 2013. The theme was *Trends, Traditions, and Technology*. Presentations at the conference focused on the student and staff experience, environment and sustainability, facilities and infrastructure, and policy and administration. Are these familiar sounding themes? There were also discussions about disaster preparedness as Christchurch, New Zealand had recently experienced a devastating earthquake. I also had the opportunity to discuss with the TEFMA Board the benefits of collaborating as members of the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) Technical Committee. Such joint efforts would bring added influence from

the educational sector in these ISO standardization activities. After the conference, I toured two university campuses in Brisbane and was absolutely amazed by cutting-edge mechanical systems, energy saving strategies, and other sustainable practices. I saw examples of best practices that could benefit North American educational institutions.

AUDE

The 2015 annual AUDE Conference featured presentations on *Effectiveness and Efficiency in UK Higher Education, Space and the Requirement for Change through Differing Perspectives, and Understanding Generation Z*. Again,



are these familiar sounding themes? It was reported at the conference that “The [higher education] sector has seen unprecedented political and economic change.” The major changes include the tripling of tuition fees in England, with expectations rising as a consequence; the reduction of income through inflation; and greater competition with universities in the area of student recruitment.

HEFMA

HEFMA is the third member of APPA's strategic alliance partnership and is composed of 19 higher education institutions in Southern Africa. HEFMA is committed to promoting “professional ideals and standards that would insure the best academic environment . . . to provide the best professional service for higher education for constant education, infor-

mation and resource creation.” Their website features articles on e-learning and the potential for digital technology to enhance education. Are these not also familiar themes? At the HEFMA 2014 annual conference, held at Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University, presentations focused on sustainability, university infrastructure development, crowdsourcing, and backlog maintenance. HEFMA has representation on a country-wide infrastructure monitoring and task team scheduled to function from 2014–2017, which will evaluate and make recommendations for infrastructure projects at various universities.

CONTINUED COLLABORATION

To thrive in our global village, collaboration is essential. APPA, TEFMA, AUDE, and HEFMA face common

challenges and have common agendas. We can share best practices rather than reinventing the wheel. We must continue to embrace a creative, diverse, and innovative culture. May we continue to commit ourselves to fully leveraging our strategic alliance partnership.

The whole is greater than the sum of its parts. Each association has unique characteristics and strengths. All of these added together become something greater than each individual association. As Japanese author Ryunosuke Satoro stated, “Individually, we are one drop. Together, we are an ocean.” ☞

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