Saying Goodbye To the Smart and Sustainable Campuses Conference

After 11 conferences from November 2005 to March 2017, the Smart and Sustainable Campuses Conference (SSCC) has come to an end and will not be produced hereafter. The coordinators at the University of Maryland, the U.S. EPA, NACUBO, SCUP, and others—and only UMD and APPA have been part of the conference throughout its duration. APPA contributed to the program planning and selection of conference presentations, and provided a valuable connection to the attendees from the campus facilities side of the house.

It was our job not only to make those connections between the facilities and energy organization and the sustainability, academic, and student stakeholders, but also to help our own APPA members break out of their silos and biases and embrace—or at least understand and provide assistance to—the important issues related to sustainability and environmental stewardship. Many of you helped support SSCC over the years by attending the conference or supporting your staff members to attend. Many of you also contributed articles to Facilities Manager, presentations to APPA, regional, or chapter conferences, and submitted best sustainability practices to APPA’s Sustainability Award or the Effective and Innovative Practices Award.

We appreciate all your support and assistance, and we want it to continue and grow. We urge you to continue supporting AASHE (the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education), Campus Sustainability Day, RecycleMania, the Green School listerv, the Climate Leadership Commitment, the APPA/NACUBO Key Facilities Metrics survey, and your local communities’ efforts to save energy and money, reduce the carbon footprint, create greater efficiencies, and develop student leaders for the future.

Sustainability and environmental stewardship are not a fad that is on the wane. Think about what has been integrated into the fabric of our daily lives—through education, politics, business, and more—that wasn’t there a dozen years ago. There’s more still to do.

KENTUCKY BECOMES NEWEST CHAPTER

WELCOME BLUEGRASS APPA!

On November 3, Northern Kentucky University hosted a meeting of about three dozen facilities professionals from institutions across the state to network and discuss the creation of a Kentucky chapter of APPA. By the end of the day, SRAPPA Immediate Past President Dan Wooten, Tennessee State University, had sworn in the new Bluegrass APPA Board of Directors. Congratulations to the new Bluegrass chapter! 🙌