



# What APPA Has to Offer

By Chuck Scott

APPA Vice President for Professional Development



I recently re-read an article written by APPA Past President Mary Vosevich. It was published in the March/April 2014 edition of *Facilities Manager* magazine and was titled, “Those Who Make Things Happen.” I couldn’t help but wholeheartedly agree with what Mary said about the people of APPA and how it is the people that indeed “make things happen.” And, it is the people that I am indebted to who have provided me the opportunity to serve as APPA’s Vice President for Professional Development these past two years.

Yet, serving in a leadership role in the premier educational facilities association

## THE OFFERINGS

**Drive-In Workshops** could arguably be the first gateway into APPA training for many of our members. These day-long programs provide networking and professional development within a localized vicinity. They are excellent for business partners, as they are afforded an inexpensive opportunity to share the content and promote their products or services. Responsibilities of the host institution are minimal—essentially just providing adequate meeting space and menu options for the business partner to fund.

**The Supervisor’s Toolkit** is another early entry into APPA programming.

This week long venture into the world of supervision is a great team building experience. Not only is daily “administrivia” explored, but there are also several modules that focus on communication, customer service, and leadership.

On my campus, Illinois State University, I hosted a Supervisor’s Toolkit for the facilities management supervisory

team. Many of these individuals knew each other’s names, but had rare opportunities to interact in a more personal or social way, which this venue afforded them. This is primarily due to the nature of a 24/7/365 operation that works multiple shifts, and I expect many of you are

in that same situation. I encourage you to consider hosting a Toolkit on your campus. The benefits are long-lasting and worth the investment.

**Regional conferences** are likely the most well-attended of all APPA professional development opportunities. Individual regions coordinate, sponsor, host, and facilitate these educational sessions. Typically held in the fall, regional conferences offer a vast array of educational presentations, complete with a business partner hall of resources.

**The APPA Annual Conference** offers educational programming at a broader international perspective through innovative perspectives, as well as a hall of resources that brings to you products and services that will keep your campus on the cutting edge. Additionally, there are keynote speakers or panels that touch on the most pertinent and timely topics relevant to the educational facilities industry. These sessions are intended to provoke thought and educate attendees so that they can also inform leadership on their respective campuses of salient topics.

Speaking of provoking thought, the annual APPA **Thought Leaders Series** is hosted by APPA International each spring. This annual symposium takes a deep dive into a single topic. The result of this intense look is a manuscript that is, or should be, shared at the highest levels of all of our institutions. This year’s monograph is now available at the APPA website (<http://www.appa.org/>)



is not the focus of this article. Instead, I want to concentrate my efforts on some of the training products that APPA has to offer. As I speak of these offerings, please keep Mary’s article in mind, and remember that the people of APPA are truly what makes things happen.

research/cfar/tls.cfm) or in print in the September/October and November/December 2014 issues of *Facilities Manager* magazine. It is titled *Leveraging Facilities for Institutional Success*.

### THE PINNACLE OF PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

I intentionally kept APPA U for last. The Institute for Facilities Management and Leadership Academy have joined forces to become APPA U, the pinnacle of educational facilities professional development. Each of these week-long programs comprised of four levels, or tracks. With emphasis on general administration, maintenance and operations, energy and utilities, and planning, design, and construction, the Institute offers all you need to know as you progress through a facilities career.

The Academy is built off the principles of Stephen R. Covey, drawing out your individual and interpersonal effectiveness skills. And now, levels 1, 2 & 3 of the Leadership Academy are available to travel to your campuses. The ultimate team-building opportunity is available for your entire staff.

In my role as VP for Professional Development, I wanted to accomplish a few important tasks. One is the creation of a graduate program for individuals that have already completed the Institute and Academy. This program is still in its infancy, but there is promise for those more seasoned members of our industry who want new training and learning opportunities.

In addition, a review is currently underway that is taking a deep dive into all aspects of the Institute. This program has had great success over the years and is continually reviewed by the deans. They make adjustments annually, based upon reviews provided by the attendees. Yet, in an effort for continual improvement, this additional review will aid the deans in preparation for future years. With a focus on providing attendees their best value, we want to deliver them the best experience available.

### VALUE, THE CRITICAL ELEMENT

It is important to inform our membership of all of the professional development opportunities that are available to them, and to highlight the value these offerings provide.

And finally, as Mary mentioned, it is the people of APPA that make things happen. Together, we can all make

things happen for the betterment of the educational facilities profession. ☎

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