



APPA Welcomes the American National Standards Institute (ANSI)

By John Bernhards

APPA was pleased to welcome Joe Bhatia, the CEO of the American National Standards Institute (ANSI), to a meeting of its Executive Committee, officers, and senior staff at APPA office on January 30. The meeting provided an opportunity for APPA to familiarize itself with opportunities to further engage with ANSI in several areas, to include ANSI standards development activities, Technical Advisory Groups, and cross-sector collaborative activities.

ANSI coordinates standards, conformity assessment, and related activities within the United States. Founded in 1918, ANSI is a private, nonprofit membership organization widely known as the accreditation body for over 200 U.S. standards bodies. Those standards bodies include the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) and the American Society of Heating, Refrigeration, and Air Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE), among numerous others whose ANSI standards directly influence educational institutions and their facilities.

APPA currently serves as a full voting organizational member of ANSI and is actively engaged with ANSI's activities, including service on the U.S. Technical Advisory Group to TC 267. TC 267 is

the Facilities Management Technical Committee within the International Organization for Standardization (ISO).

Another area of engagement is also on the horizon for APPA. In November 2014, APPA's Standards and Codes Council submitted an application on APPA's behalf to become an ANSI Accredited Standards Developer. Assuming the application is approved, APPA will seek to develop and publish American National Standards that support the principles of total cost of ownership (TCO) for educational facilities and infrastructure. The areas of work for APPA's proposed standards activities would include the four core areas of the educational facilities management practice: General Administration & Management; Maintenance & Operations; Energy & Utilities; and Planning, Design & Construction. APPA and its Standards and Codes Council believe that such standards can lend support to facilities business models and best practices, and will aid institutions in managing the cost of education delivery.

APPA's large membership, with 1,300 educational facilities organizations and more than 11,000 educational facilities professionals, should ensure that APPA's standards setting activities are

populated by varied and diverse users of such standards, as well as producers and suppliers to institutions and other education stakeholder interests.

According to APPA President Randolph Hare, "APPA is the most appropriate venue for purposes of reaching consensus on ANSI standards that impact the construction, operation, and maintenance of educational facilities...(and) to bring the largest and most diverse population of subject matter experts to the table, for purposes of creating such standards."

During his visit with the Executive Committee, Bhatia applauded APPA's engagement with NFPA, ASHRAE, the International Codes Council, and the Technical Committee 267 of the ISO. ANSI serves as the U.S. representative to ISO as well as numerous regional standards bodies across the globe. Bhatia also encouraged APPA to consider engagement in a number of other activities and areas within ANSI, to include the following:

ANSI Smart and Sustainable Cities Collaborative—APPA recently joined the collaborative, which provides a rich network among standards setting bodies, membership organizations, and others throughout both the public

IN NOVEMBER 2014, APPA'S STANDARDS AND CODES COUNCIL SUBMITTED AN APPLICATION ON APPA'S BEHALF TO BECOME AN ANSI ACCREDITED STANDARDS DEVELOPER.

and private sectors where technical information, benchmarking, innovative practices and other resources may be shared with regard to sustainable building and infrastructure. Bhatia noted that APPA educational institutions have been in the forefront of addressing sustainable buildings, infrastructure, and systems that reduce the carbon footprint and create a cleaner, more environmentally responsible environment. APPA has a long history of collecting sustainable best practices through its research, publications, and sustainability and best practices awards programs,

and which could be shared through the collaborative.

U.S. Technical Advisory Groups (TAGs) to TC 205 *Building Environmental Design* and TC 268, *Sustainable Development in Communities*—These two ISO Technical Committees are underway with the creation of ISO standards that may ultimately influence building, design and sustainable development within the United States, Canada, Mexico, and other nations, should they be adopted for use. The opportunity to influence direction and outcomes in

these standards is a consideration for involvement. The APPA Standards and Codes Council will evaluate the opportunity in coming months.

APPA's growing involvement in the standards, codes, and conformity assessment arena—to include the expansion of its standards Work Group activities already underway—provides an invaluable opportunity for APPA members to engage and influence outcomes that can benefit the institutional mission, enhance learning, and perhaps assist us in managing the cost and delivery of education over time. ☺

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