

Call for Presentations

17th Annual NJAPPA Spring Conference

March 10-12, 2027 | Seaview Hotel, a Destination by Hyatt | Galloway, New Jersey



BUILT TO LEAD

Developing People.
Strengthening Campuses.

Leadership is built through people, shared knowledge, and the practices that help campuses meet what comes next.

The 2026 conference, “Back to the Front: Elevating Operational Excellence,” recognized the people and practices that keep our campuses working every day. In 2027, we will carry that conversation forward. Strong operations grow when we develop people, share knowledge, and make thoughtful decisions that prepare our campuses for what comes next.

Built to Lead begins with a broad view of leadership. A title may bring authority, but we lead at every level when we coach a colleague, pass on hard-won knowledge, solve a problem, strengthen a team, or help others see a better path. When we develop people, we create room for professionals at every career stage to learn, contribute, and take on new responsibility. This work includes frontline supervision, mentoring, communication, workforce development, succession planning, safety culture, and knowledge transfer.

We strengthen campuses through reliable, responsive, and resilient operations. Facilities professionals help create places where students learn and work, faculty teach and conduct research, and staff serve their communities. This work includes maintenance, asset stewardship, capital planning, sustainability, technology, customer service, emergency readiness, and partnerships across the institution.

These dimensions reinforce each other. Teams make better decisions when they have the skills, context, and support to act. Campuses grow stronger when we turn experience into better practices, share solutions, and learn from results. Your proposal may focus on developing people, improving campus operations, or showing how one leads to the other. It does not need to cover every part of the theme or use the theme words in its title.

We welcome ideas that challenge routine thinking. Share a pilot, a creative workaround, a partnership that changed the result, a new use of technology, a process you redesigned, or a lesson from something that did not go as planned. Tell us what you tried, what you learned, and what another campus could adapt. Bring a bold idea and make it useful.

IDEAS TO GET YOU STARTED

- The theme gives your proposal a direction, not a narrow lane. We welcome ideas from different roles, campus types, career stages, and professional partners. These examples are starting points; you may propose a topic beyond this list.
- Developing people: frontline leadership, coaching and mentoring, workforce recruitment and retention, succession planning, knowledge transfer, team engagement, communication, professional growth, and safety culture.
- Strengthening campus operations: maintenance practices, asset stewardship, capital planning and construction, deferred maintenance, sustainability and energy, emergency preparedness, resilience, and service quality.
- Leading change and using technology: smart buildings, artificial intelligence, data-informed decisions, automation, process improvement, emerging tools, and how teams adapt new practices responsibly.
- Building partnerships across campus: customer service, collaboration with academic and administrative colleagues, connecting facilities work to institutional priorities, and projects that bring different groups together.
- Learning from the work: successful projects, creative solutions developed with limited resources, measurable outcomes, challenges overcome, approaches that did not work as expected, and what you would change next time.

SESSION FORMATS

We welcome case studies, demonstrations, interactive sessions, panel conversations, and roundtables. Choose a format that helps participants ask questions, compare experiences, and leave with a practical takeaway. Sessions should run no less than 60-75 minutes, including discussion and questions.

BUSINESS PARTNERS

Business partners are valued contributors to the NJAPPA community. We welcome educational proposals that share expertise and focus on common challenges, implementation, and practical value for institutional attendees. We encourage joint presentations with an educational institution. Proposals should not function as sales presentations.

WHAT WE LOOK FOR

- A clear connection to the conference theme and the needs of higher education facilities professionals.
- Practical learning attendees can adapt at their own campuses.
- Fresh thinking, useful evidence, candid lessons, and a clear explanation of what others can learn.
- An engaging plan that makes room for questions, discussion, or participation.
- A clear proposal and relevant experience among the presenters.

WHAT TO INCLUDE IN YOUR PROPOSAL

We welcome proposals from educational institutions, business partners, consultants, and industry professionals across New Jersey and the ERAPPA region. First-time presenters are welcome. Please include the following in the online portal:

- Presentation title and a 250-500-word session abstract describing your idea and its relevance to facilities professionals.
- Three learning objectives that state what participants will know or be able to do after the session.
- For each presenter: name, title, organization, email address, and a brief biography.
- The audience intended and proposed session format. Sessions should run 60-75 minutes, including discussion. We will confirm final scheduling and session length with selected presenters.
- Audio-visual, room setup, and accessibility needs.
- If applicable, potential AIA, IFMA, or other professional continuing education credit. NJAPPA will review eligibility and coordinate approval when applicable.

WRITING YOUR SESSION ABSTRACT

In 250-500 words, describe the challenge, opportunity, or question behind your session. Explain what you will share, how participants will take part, and what they can carry back to campus. Include context and results that will help another team judge what may transfer to its own setting. If you are still testing an approach, tell us what you have learned so far and what questions remain.



List three specific learning objectives. Start each objective with an action verb such as identify, compare, apply, evaluate, or develop. Objectives help us understand what participants will take away and help you shape a focused session.

KEY DATES

- Call for Presentations: **OPEN NOW**
- Proposal deadline: **Monday, January 11**
- Presenter notifications: **Monday, January 25**
- 90% submission review: **Monday, February 15**
- Final presentation materials due: **Monday, March 1**

SUBMITTING A PROPOSAL

Visit the NJAPPA website and open the Call for Presentations page to access the online proposal portal:

[\[SUBMIT YOUR PROPOSAL HERE\]](#).

QUESTIONS?

Contact [John Pereira](#), Director of Professional Development. We are happy to help.

We look forward to learning from you. Your perspective can help another team see a challenge differently, strengthen a campus, or develop the next generation of facilities leaders.

See you at Seaview in the Spring!