



2026 ASHRAE WINTER CONFERENCE STUDENT PROGRAM

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2026 ASHRAE Winter Conference Student Program

A special program for students will take place at the 2026 Winter Conference. Events and activities include an awards ceremony, mixer, technical talks, student round table and a tour. Students are also encouraged to attend recommended technical sessions throughout the conference. Any questions about the Student Program please contact students@ashrae.org

Friday, January 30th

STUDENT ACTIVITIES SUBCOMMITTEE MEETINGS

8:00am-12:00pm

Subcommittees discussing upcoming events, award and activities for Student Activities

STUDENT ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE MEETING

1:00-5:30pm

Hear what have been going on in Student Activities for the year and upcoming events, awards, and activities

Saturday, January 31st

STUDENT WELCOME & AWARD CEREMONY

1:00-3:00pm | Caesars Palace, Augustus V & VI (EP)



Hear welcoming remarks from **ASHRAE President Bill McQuade** followed by an awards ceremony and keynote presentation from Karine Leblanc.

McQuade's theme for the 2025-26 ASHRAE Society Year is ***"Healthy Buildings: Designing for Life."***

"Balancing energy efficiency with good IEQ ensures that buildings are not only environmentally sustainable but also conducive to the health and productivity of their occupants, creating a win-win situation for both people and the planet."



Karine Leblanc, engineer, bestselling author, and international speaker. She is the Western Regional Equipment Sales Manager at Daikin Applied, where she uses her engineering background, coaching, and relationship-building skills to motivate and develop a winning sales team.

She has a mechanical engineering degree from Ecole de Technologie Superieure in Montreal, a University focused on applied engineering and technology. She is a Genos emotional intelligence certified practitioner. She is a certified John Maxwell coach, trainer, and speaker, a certified behavioral analysis consultant, a Heroic

Public Speaking graduate Alumni and an eSpeakers certified virtual presenter.

She is the best-selling author of *How to Be Human in a Technical World* available on Amazon.

Not your typical engineer™, Karine served on the board of directors for ASHRAE from 2014 to 2017 and holds the distinction of becoming the first female Region X director and regional chair since 1959. She is the Past-President of the National Speaker Association Los Angeles Chapter. She has received the ASHRAE Distinguished Service Award and John F James International Award.

In recognition of her exceptional contributions to the University of Quebec, she was awarded an honorary medal during its 50th-anniversary celebration. Furthermore, Karine's outstanding contributions to her Alumni granted her the esteemed title of Leadership Ambassador.

KEYNOTE ADDRESS: Karine Leblanc

It's Not About GPA: How Engineers Really Succeed

Engineering school teaches you how to solve technical problems. But your career will be shaped just as much by how you communicate, lead yourself, and work with others.

In this keynote, Karine Leblanc shares real lessons learned from her journey as an engineer, leader, and long-time ASHRAE volunteer. Students will discover the **human skills engineers use every day**—from emotional intelligence and communication to adaptability, self-leadership, and teamwork.

This session connects the dots between **internships, mindset, career design, and growth**, showing students how to be intentional about their future instead of leaving it to chance. You'll learn why growth doesn't just happen, why "better done than perfect" matters, and how organizations like ASHRAE can accelerate your career faster than you think.

This keynote is practical, honest, and designed to help engineering students leave with clarity, confidence, and a simple framework to **design their career like an engineer—on purpose**.

PLENARY SESSION

3:15-5:30pm | Caesars Palace, Palace II & III (E)

The Plenary will feature a keynote speaker. The Plenary Session also features presentations from the Honors and Awards programs, including recognition of the First Place winners of the Student Competitions.

YEA/STUDENT MIXER (POSTER SESSION)

5:00-6:30pm

Mix and mingle with Young Engineers in ASHRAE (YEA) members. Meet new friends, win prizes in our group activity, and enjoy free food and drinks. The mixer will also include a poster session with winners of the Student Competitions and recipients of ASHRAE's Undergraduate Program Equipment Grants.

Sunday, February 1st

STUDENT PROGRAM

8:00am-3:30pm | Caesars Palace, Augustus V & VI (EP)

The program will feature technical talks, a career panel Q&A session, plus lunch.
See breakdown of program below.

8:00 – 9:00 am SAC: ASHRAE Crash Course & Networking 101

9:00 – 10:00 am **Technical Talk #1:** Tim Wentz- Back to the Future: Our Industry in 2030



This presentation will explore some of the emerging trends and technologies that will likely shape our future. As with any dramatic change, both danger and opportunity will manifest themselves, requiring us to create innovative, imaginative approaches to seize the opportunities.

10:00 – 11:00 am STEM Group Activity

11:00– 12:00pm **Technical Talk #2:** Tracey Jumper- Decarbonization: Lessons from the Amazon Rainforest



Can HVAC&R engineers make a significant impact in the fight against climate change? This presentation draws inspiration from a daring road race over the Andes and through the Amazon jungle, showcasing innovative and entrepreneurial ways industry professionals can contribute to protecting vital environmental systems. No matter where you started on this planet, we've all ended up in the same room here at ASHRAE, united by a common goal. While our profession inherently promotes efficiency, optimization, and waste reduction, there is always more we can do to become an even bigger part of the solution. This talk also includes insights into what ASHRAE members are doing across the globe, sharing how they are using ever-improving tools to make a tangible difference in tackling climate change. Learn about practical steps and strategies aligned with the ASHRAE Task Force on Decarbonization recommendations, and discover how you can enhance your efforts.

12:15 – 1:00pm Lunch

1:00– 2:00pm **Career Panel:** Join an engaging presentation that delves into the world of engineering through the eyes of three professionals. We'll explore a typical day in their lives, highlighting their diverse roles and responsibilities. Discover various career paths within engineering, including emerging fields and opportunities for growth.



Sarah Poursharafeddin, LEED AP, MBA is the owner of Environmental Quality Experts. In 2003, Sarah Poursharafeddin began her career in the HVAC industry as a manufacturer's representative, and a few years later began her work as an IAQ analyst. She has been heavily involved in the Nebraska ASHRAE Chapter over the years, and has held Society level positions as well. Sarah has a Master's Degree in Business, and is a LEED-Accredited Professional.



Patrick Pease, PE is an Associate Principal at Buro Happold & US Building Performance Service Leader. An innovator in design and simulation processes, Patrick uses technology to deliver high-quality results and drive collaboration on projects. His past projects include both high-performance design for complex projects – such as the Living Building Challenge Climate Exchange campus – and innovative solutions to building performance simulation. Starting his career at Arup as mechanical engineer and energy modeler for over a decade, Patrick worked across the US and EU on an array of hospitality, commercial, higher education, laboratory, and healthcare building and campus developments. His passion for innovation led him to join a software startup cove.tool to create a wholly new energy modeling platform and publish 5 papers at industry conferences. Now at Buro Happold, Patrick leads business development and team growth for the diverse building performance team. Outside of the office Patrick is an active member of ASHRAE and IBPSA, Patrick sits on the 90.1 ECB sub-committee, and is a voting member of ASHRAE SSPC 209 and the IBPSA Practitioner Committee.

1:00– 2:00pm

Career Panel continued....



Brittany Carl Moser, BEMP, WELL AP, is a Sustainable Building Design Leader at HKS, Inc. As the Sustainable Design Leader for Commercial and Mixed-Use at HKS, Inc., Brittany's focus is on using her background in building science, performance analytics, resilience, wellness, appropriate technologies, and integrated design to advance projects, processes, and firmwide ESG progress. She is passionate about working with project teams and clients to enhance passive design, systems efficiency, and indoor environmental quality respective to each project's context, to enable people and communities to flourish while protecting our shared resources. Brittany is engaged in the development of sustainable design standards as a voting member on multiple ASHRAE and ISO committees.



Jeff Gatlin, PE, is a professional engineer with over thirty-five years in HVAC design and facility infrastructure operations. He has been the Utilities Manager at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital since 2019.

Jeff has been an active member of ASHRAE for nearly three decades, celebrating his 30th anniversary as a member later in 2026. He currently serves as Chair of Guideline Project Committee 32 and is a member of both the Handbook Committee and Technical Committee 7.3. His prior service includes a term as Director and Regional Chair for Region VII (2011 to 2014), two terms as Scholarship Trustees Chair, and many other Chapter, Regional, and Society roles. His perspectives have been published in ASHRAE Journal and ASHRAE Insights.

STUDENT TOUR – TO BE DETERMINED

2:30-4:30pm

Sign Up required – 30 Students Max.

Monday, February 2nd

WOMEN IN ASHRAE (WIA) BREAKFAST

7:00-8:30am

STUDENT ROUND TABLE

10:00am-12:00pm | Caesars Palace, Turin (P)

Student Branch officers are selected to participate in this two-hour session to provide ASHRAE leaders with feedback and guidance on student activities.

STUDENT BRANCH ADVISOR ROUND TABLE

10:00am-12:00pm | Caesars Palace, Vernoia (P)

Student Branch Advisors are invited to join representatives from the Student Activities Committee to brainstorm ideas for the future.

AHR SHOW CAREER PANEL AND TOUR

12:00-3:00pm

Registration required! Come have lunch with some manufacturers from the AHR Show and learn about their work, followed by a guided tour of the tradeshow floor. This event is put on by the ASHRAE Student Activities Committee and AHR.



Recommended Technical Sessions

Sunday, February 1

9:45am-10:45am

Seminar 5: AI in Action: A Real World Application of AI for Campus Energy Optimization

11:00am-12:30pm

Seminar 11: Future-Proofing Building Systems: Leveraging Geothermal Energy for Durability, Feasibility and Energy Efficiency

1:30pm-3:00pm

Seminar 16: Human-Centered IEQ: Advancing Health and Performance in Modern Spaces

Monday, February 2

8:00 am – 9:30 am

Seminar 21: Decarbonizing Buildings in Cold Climates without Electric Resistance Heating--Use Ice Instead!

9:45 am – 10:45 am

Part of Paper Session 12: Enhancing Air-Source Heat Pump Performance with a Portable Thermoelectric Subcooler for Heating and Moisture Control (LV-26-C074)

Tuesday, February 3

8:00 am – 9:30 am

Debate 2: A Heated Debate on AI in AEC – College of Fellows (COF) and Young Engineers in ASHRAE (YEA)