



2025 ASHRAE WINTER CONFERENCE

ORLANDO, FEB 8-12 | AHR EXPO, FEB 10-12

STUDENT PROGRAM

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Saturday, February 8th

1:00 – 3:00 PM STUDENT WELCOME AND AWARDS CEREMONY

Hilton Orlando, Orlando III (Lower Level)



Hear welcoming remarks from ASHRAE President Dennis Knight followed by an awards ceremony and keynote presentation from Nancy Kohout.

Nancy Kohout, PE, LEED AP BD+C

Nancy Kohout, PE, LEED AP BD+C, is a Senior Principal and Mechanical Engineering Leader at SmithGroup, one of the nation's premier Architectural and Engineering design firms. She has more than 20 years experience in the building design industry across a range of building sectors. Nancy is passionate about women in leadership and decarbonization. She was recognized as one of "20 Women to Watch in HVAC" by Engineered Systems Magazine in 2021. She is currently President Elect of the Illinois ASHRAE chapter (American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-conditioning Engineers) and was chair of the first ever Women in ASHRAE Leadership Symposium this September. Nancy will also be on the steering committee for the 2025 ASHRAE Decarbonization Conference. She received a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering from The Ohio State University. Nancy is also a TAM (technical account manager) for the Department of Energy's Better Climate Challenge, helping large scale portfolio owners strategize to meet their greenhouse gas emissions reductions goals.

3:15 – 5:30 PM PLENARY SESSION

Hilton Orlando, Orlando I-II (Lower Level)

The Plenary will feature a keynote from Jim Davidson is a resilience expert who has survived not just one epic mountain disaster, but two. The Plenary Session also features presentations from the Honors and Awards programs, including recognition of the First Place winners of the Student Competitions.

5:30 – 6:30 PM YEA/STUDENT MIXER & POSTER SESSION

Hilton Orlando, Orlando III (Lower Level)

Mix and mingle with Young Engineers in ASHRAE (YEA) members. Meet new friends, 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.

6:30 – 8:30 PM WELCOME PARTY

ORLANDO AUTO MUSEUM (\$80 TICKET)

Students are encouraged to attend.



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Sunday, February 9th

8:00 AM–2:00 PM | STUDENT PROGRAM

Hilton Orlando, Orlando III (Lower Level)

8:00 – 9:30 am

Technical Talk with Erich Binder: The Challenges of Industrial HVAC – An Ever-Changing Balancing Act



Erich Binder is an independent engineering consultant with an extensive experience in the sustainable design of institutional, industrial, & cold climate, Heating Ventilation & Air Conditioning (HVAC), plumbing, fire suppression & specialty mechanical systems engineering. Binder has engineered HVAC systems for various industrial projects including Plant Control Rooms, Electrical Buildings, Data Storage Facilities, Laboratories, Clean Rooms, Large Battery Storage Facilities, Bit Coin Mining Facilities, Dust, Mist, & Fume Collection System, Hazardous Spaces, Explosive Environment Facilities, Heavy Duty Maintenance Shops, Emergency Response Facilities, Fire Halls, Penitentiaries, Police Stations, Gun Ranges and Industrial Hygiene Facilities. Binder has worked as a Risk Analyst & Loss prevention consultant providing input into corporate insurance placement, managed boiler machinery, construction project losses, claims and loss prevention issues. As a Corporate Emergency Response Team member he has investigated the cause of failures relating to Power Facilities, Energy Production Facilities, Pipelines, Chemical and Fire/Explosion related failures.

9:30 – 10:30 am

Resume Workshop hosted by the Student Activities Committee with prizes

10:30 – 12:00 pm

STEM Group Activity

12:00 – 12:30pm

Lunch

12:30 – 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. You'll gain valuable tips and recommendations on excelling in your engineering career, from technical skills to personal development. Discover various career paths within engineering, including emerging fields and opportunities for growth. Learn essential etiquette for interviews and on-the-job scenarios to make a positive impression and build professional relationships. Additionally, view and participate in a mock interview to hone your skills and receive constructive feedback. This presentation is designed to provide practical insights and actionable tips for aspiring engineers, helping you succeed at every stage of your career.



Danielle Passaglia, PE, LEED Green Associate is a licensed Senior Mechanical Engineer and Project Manager at SmithGroup in Chicago. She has 8 years of experience in the AEC industry. She is a past president for the Illinois ASHRAE Chapter and currently serves on the Board for Illinois Ashrae and AEI. Danielle is passionate about Science and Tech work, bridging sustainability and function for specialized areas. She is the author of two books “Lucy Goes Green” and “Lucy’s Engineering Adventure” and is a passionate advocate for STEM outreach and women in STEM. She received her Bachelors and Masters degrees in Architectural Engineering from the University



Sophia Jones, EIT is a Mechanical Engineering Designer pursuing licensure at SmithGroup in Detroit. She is a recent graduate of Lawrence Technological University’s Architectural Engineering program where she earned her master’s degree. Throughout college, Sophia was heavily involved in AEC related student chapters, including ASHRAE, AEI, and Tau Beta Pi. Hoping to inspire young professionals, she advocates for AE programs by connecting with student chapters and by working with high school students. Sophia is eager to contribute to sustainable projects and continues to learn and grow by seeking new opportunities.



Sunday, February 9th

12:30 – 2:00pm

Career Panel continued...



Mosope Ismail, P.E., LEED AP BD+C, PMP, is a Senior Mechanical Engineer and Project Manager at SmithGroup's Detroit office, bringing over 8 years of experience. She leads mechanical design teams on projects across the healthcare, workplace, and higher education sectors.

Mosope holds a master's degree in Architectural Engineering from Penn State University and is passionate about sustainability and inclusive design. Outside of work, she enjoys international travel, discovering new cuisines, and staying active. Mosope also volunteers as a youth mentor at her local church.

2:30 – 5:30 PM STUDENT TOUR

(\$25 ticket)

Orlando International Airport (OIA) - Intermodal Terminal Facility (ITF)

Orlando's new OIA South Airport Automated People Mover Complex and Intermodal Terminal Facility represent the latest advancement in the airport's transportation infrastructure, serving as a central hub for air travel at OIA. This new facility enhances the airport's existing North Terminal by offering seamless multi-modal connectivity, expanding OIA's capacity to serve passenger more efficiently. The South Terminal is comprised of several key components: the South Airport Automated People Mover (APM), the Station Intermodal Transportation Facility (ITF), the Rail Station Passenger Drop-Off Lobby (PDL), as well as additional support facilities, including structured parking lot and a central energy plant.

Spanning 425,079 square feet, the South Airport complex allows OIA to serve as a critical transportation nexus linking air, ground, and rail systems to better connect the Central Florida community on a local, state and global scale. The Greater Orlando Aviation Authority (GOAA) has become a trailblazer in sustainable development by adopting LEEDv4, the newest version of the green building standard. This commitment is why the South Airport Complex is the first project in Florida to achieve LEEDv4 New Construction certification, and the first building on the South Airport campus to be certified under LEEDv4.

Buses will depart from the Hilton Orlando Transportation Hub at 2:30 pm and return before 5:30 pm. The tour will be an all-walking exploration on sustainable engineering practices within a LEED-certified facility.

Monday, February 10th

10:00 AM–11:30 AM STUDENT ROUNDTABLE

Hilton Orlando, Lake Down B (Lobby Level)

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

10:00 AM–11:30 AM | STUDENT BRANCH ADVISOR ROUNDTABLE

Hilton Orlando, Lake Down A (Lobby Level)

Student Branch Advisors are invited to discuss student activities with Regional Student Activities Chairs.

12:00 PM–3:00 PM AHR EXPO CAREER PANEL & TOUR

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 9

8:00 AM–9:00 AM

Seminar 5: Practical Progression and Implementation to Decarbonization

11:00 AM–12:30 PM

Seminar 11: Advances in AI Technologies for the Buildings Industry

1:30 PM–3:00 PM

Seminar 16: Innovative Technologies and Design Strategies for Achieving Greater Sufficiency and Resilience in Buildings

Monday, February 10

8:00 AM–9:30 AM

Seminar 21: Decarbonization of Cleanrooms through More Effective Determination of Air Change Rates

9:45 AM–10:45 AM

Seminar 27: Unlocking the Future: Breakthrough Field Results from DOE's Cold Climate Heat Pumps Challenge in Residential Decarbonization

Tuesday, February 11

8:00 AM–9:30 AM

Debate 2: Artificial Intelligence is a Hoax! A College of Fellows Debate