

FACES OF ASHRAE: *Bria Poe*

Bria Poe, Associate Member ASHRAE, is a controls sales engineer for Johnson Controls. She has been in the HVAC&R industry for nearly three years and has been a member of the Birmingham, Alabama chapter for the last two years.

► **Education:**

Mechanical Engineering - University of Alabama at Birmingham

► **What technical committees or other parts of ASHRAE are you involved with?**

I am currently involved at the chapter level and have served as MP Chair, RP Chair, Vice President and President-Elect. I will be serving as President of the Birmingham Chapter in the 24-25 fiscal year.

► **What got you into the industry?**

My dad has worked in the industry for over 25 years, and when the opportunity came along, I decided I wanted to follow in his footsteps.

► **What is your favorite part of your job?**

My favorite part of my job is the opportunity interact with customers and help them achieve their goals in building communities in the most economical and sustainable way.

► **What advice do you have to young people starting out in ASHRAE?**

My advice to the young people starting out in ASHRAE is to get plugged in and network with as many people as possible. It is the best way to learn and grow personally and professionally.

► **What are your career goals?**

One of my goals is to become a top controls sales engineer in my company. Another goal is to obtain a professional mechanical engineering license.

► **What are the biggest challenges you see that the industry is facing?**

One of the biggest challenges I see is the retiring workforce. As many in our industry retire, there is an increasing gap of knowledge and experience between those exiting and entering the industry.

► **How do you think the industry could best address those challenges?**

The industry can address these challenges by reaching out to more high school and college students to make them aware of the opportunities within industry as well as providing training courses for easy transition into industry.

► **What do you enjoy doing when you are away from work?**

I spend time with my family and friends, volunteering at my church, volunteering at Community of Hope Health Clinic (CHHC) and playing ultimate frisbee.

► **What has been your proudest accomplishment of your career so far?**

I am proud of obtaining my mechanical engineering degree, as well as working my way up through the industry into sales and becoming ASHRAE Birmingham Chapter President in only 2 years. I am also proud of becoming volunteer of the year at CHHC.

► **What are your goals in ASHRAE?**

I would like to be more involved at the society level as a Director Regional Chair or become a Distinguished Lecturer.

► **What has been your favorite part of being an ASHRAE member?**



My favorite part of ASHRAE is the networking. I have had the opportunity to meet people all over the world and made connections I otherwise wouldn't have outside of ASHRAE.

► **What is one thing you wished you knew when you started in the industry?**

I wish I had a better understanding of the codes and regulations that go into maintaining the HVACR industry. It is amazing to see how ASHRAE has been able to bring in people from all over the world to help create a healthy and sustainable built environment for all.

► **You mention the sustainable aspect of your job. What does building communities in the most economical and sustainable way mean?**

Our industry is constantly looking for ways to meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs. This takes into account reducing our carbon footprint and reducing the cost of energy consumption. I work with engineers by designing buildings to create solutions in my local community to meet the needs of the people today and those of the future. ●