

## FACES OF ASHRAE: *Lionel Davis*

**Lionel Davis II, Associate Member ASHRAE, currently serves as R7 MP RVC, Chapter nominating committee., Chapter: K-12 Committee and Government Affairs Committee, Former Chapter President, BOD DEI Advisory Subcommittee, R7 DEI Champion.**

► **What is your current job?**

Facilities & Infrastructure Consultant for the Sustainable Infrastructure group within Johnson Controls.

► **What is your level of education?**

BS in Mechanical Engineering – University of Arkansas.

► **Years of industry experience?**

~8 Years within the industry at Johnson Controls.

► **What ASHRAE Chapter are you in?**

Memphis Chapter - Former Chapter President and recipient of R7 David Levine Award for Chapter of the Year

► **How long have you been an ASHRAE member?**

Formally joined ASHRAE 5 years ago after settling into my role at JCI; I decided to join ASHRAE after learning more about the benefits of being a member and attended Board of Governors meetings.

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

TC 9.7 – Educational Facilities (Pro CM)  
 R7 MP RVC  
 R7 DEI Champion  
 ASHRAE Board DEI Advisory Subcommittee

► **What got you into the industry?**

Honestly, the opportunity to be in sales and have a chance to influence my income is what got me into this industry. What has kept me in the industry are the opportunities to have an impact on community and expose underrepresented youth to the employment pathways and wealth building potential. Our field has very few barriers to entry, but the greatest among them is exposure or the lack thereof.

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

Learning the unique ways Energy Services Companies/General Contractors (ESCOs/GCs) can deliver value to the public sector and broader community. With or without resources, clients can see the value in partnerships that help them focus on their mission and allow the work I do to empower them.

In this space, regardless of what logo is on your shirt, we have a responsibility to educate, support and develop our communities.

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

Your engagement with ASHRAE is what you make it. I knew very few people initially, but once I became more involved everything started to make more sense (or I at least had people around me who could help it make sense).

► **What are your career goals?**

I want to continue to find creative ways to have an impact on people and empower as many others as possible. For the short term, I enjoy being an individual contributor, but I can also see myself leading team(s) one day.

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

I think an obvious challenge is for sure Climate Change, but given my proximity to the contracting space, I have observed and felt the shortages in skilled trades. Aging and the change in talent demands are drivers behind the shortage. The places it will be felt the most are within the public sector unfortunately.

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

Community and ASHRAE campaigns



for trade advocacy and community forums. Being innovative in our outreach and exposure to younger generations.

Our industry, unlike many others, have very few academic barriers to entry. Strategic engagement in the 5-8th and the 9-12th grade ranges, I believe, would prove to be worthy investments.

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

My proudest ASHRAE accomplishment was winning our region's highest award, the David Levine Award. That was a testament to the incredible team we had and their commitment to our chapter.

► **What are your goals in ASHRAE?:**

I would like to become a Distinguished Lecturer in addition to other various roles I may hold in ASHRAE.

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

Having an intentional and professional community to call home. I've met some dear friends who do very impactful things in this organization both as a member and staff. Some of whom are like family.

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

Away from work, I enjoy traveling with my wife London and our two personality-filled dogs, family time in Little Rock (Ark.), Losing my voice over Arkansas sports and Memphis Grizzlies games, fishing, and Bid Whist! ●