



AI in Facilities

February 2–4, 2026 | Phoenix, AZ

FACILITATORS: Sid Thatham (University of Cincinnati) & Pete Zuraw (Gordian)

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 2

5:30 PM

Opening Reception

Kick off T3 with networking and refreshments. All APPAU attendees are invited to join and connect with facilities professionals from around the globe before the program begins.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 3

7:00 AM

Breakfast & Announcements

Start your day with breakfast and hear important announcements.

8:00 AM

Welcome Remarks

Official welcome to T3: AI in Facilities.

8:30 AM

AI Trends & Impact

Aaron Benz (CampusIQ), Sid Thatham (Univ. of Cincinnati), Pete Zuraw (Gordian)

Explore the major AI trends shaping educational facilities management. This opening plenary sets the stage with insights on where AI is headed and what it means for your campus operations.

9:30 AM

Refreshment Break

10:00 AM

Roundtable: Icebreakers & Your Favorite AI Tools

Connect with fellow attendees and share what's working in your AI toolkit. Swap recommendations on chatbots, scheduling assistants, data analysis tools, and more. Come ready to share your experiences and leave with new ideas.

11:00 AM

AI in Action at Auburn: Network Data into Facilities Intelligence

Aaron Benz (CampusIQ), Glen Granberry (Auburn University)

Auburn and CampusIQ show how existing network infrastructure delivers real-time occupancy insights without major new investments. See how two buildings with different futures are using this data to drive energy and space decisions today.

12:00 PM

Lunch & Announcements

1:00 PM

Roundtable: Workforce Readiness—Preparing Your Team for AI

The human side of AI adoption. Discuss change management strategies, address staff concerns, and build buy-in. Share what's working when it comes to training and shifting job roles. Pairs well with the Siemens session that follows.

2:00 PM

My Gosh! AI-Driven Strategies for Shockingly Better Decisions

Chris Houdeshell (EnergyCAP)

Utility bills tell a powerful story about how your buildings consume energy. Explore how AI can uncover hidden insights in utility and energy data. Leave with fresh perspectives on the relationship between people, buildings, and data.

3:00 PM

Refreshment Break

3:30 PM

Human-centric AI for Maintenance Optimization

Benjamin Crowe (Siemens), Fred James (Siemens)

Human-centric autonomous operations blend AI-driven predictions with automated workflows. Learn how a 'virtual team' approach reduces manual effort while improving efficiency, safety, and comfort—extending, not replacing, human expertise.

4:30 PM

Wrap Up

Key takeaways and preview of Wednesday. Dinner on your own.



AI in Facilities — Wednesday, February 4

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 4

7:00 AM

Breakfast & Announcements

Start Day 2 with breakfast and important announcements.

8:00 AM

Recap & Reflections from Tuesday

Reflect on Day 1 themes and share takeaways before diving into Wednesday's sessions.

8:30 AM

Data, Analytics & AI Reshaping Facilities Maintenance

Katie Rossman (Clockworks), Michael Hoffman (Univ. of Arizona)

FDD has evolved from spotting inefficiencies to creating a living system of record for every asset. Learn how diagnostic histories inform capital planning, where AI delivers value today, and how agentic AI can support overextended teams.

9:30 AM

Refreshment Break

10:00 AM

Beyond the AI Hype: From Insights to Action

Robby Martin (ATS Automation)

Smart building tech promises savings, but the critical step is turning insights into action. See three real-world success stories, practical applications, and common pitfalls to avoid—focused on what's actually working in the field.

11:00 AM

Roundtable: Privacy Implications with AI Proliferation

As AI tools collect more data, privacy concerns grow. Discuss what data you're collecting, who has access, and how to balance operational insights with occupant privacy. Share your institution's approach.

12:00 PM

Lunch

1:00 PM

Justifying Your Capital Plan with AI

Rachael Buchanan (OperationsHERO)

Move beyond outdated spreadsheets. Learn how AI can speed up data collection, prioritize your backlog, score needs, and develop scenarios to justify decisions to leadership.

2:00 PM

Operational AI at Enterprise Scale

David Rivas (Mayo Clinic), Brett Gorden (Mayo Clinic), Joshua Ridley (Willow)

Mayo Clinic shares how generative AI converts blueprints, BIM, and O&M manuals into machine-readable intelligence in hours. See how AI copilots help junior staff perform like seasoned veterans as experienced technicians retire.

3:00 PM

Break

3:30 PM

Roundtable: AI as an Organizational Strategy

AI isn't just a tools question—it's a strategy question. Discuss how to position AI within your organization's goals, get leadership buy-in, and move from experiments to coordinated initiatives.

4:30 PM

Close Out & New APPA Community Tool Launch

Dave Ulmer (APPA)

Closing remarks, key takeaways, and announcement of a new community tool to support facilities professionals in their AI journey.



All times in Phoenix local time (MST) | www.appa.org | #APPAT3 | #AlnFacilities