

For Release July 2005

HVACR and ARI Educational Services Completes First Regional Instructor Workshop with 40 Educational Institutions from across the United States

In a cooperative effort with Ferris State University HVACR program, Air Conditioning and Refrigeration Institute (ARI) sponsored its first Regional Instructor Workshop July 27 and 28, 2005, at the Granger Center for Construction and HVACR. ARI's Education Department has hosted Instructor Workshops in Arlington, VA, for nine consecutive years.

The idea for a regional workshop was conceived when many workshop attendees cited the need for a regional get together to accommodate those who couldn't always attend the main event in Arlington. Ray Mach, ARI's Director of Education, visited Ferris State to attend the grand opening of the spectacular Granger Center for Construction and HVACR and quickly realized it would be the ideal location for the first regional workshop.

"While visiting Ferris State for the first time I met Mike Feutz, their HVACR Department Chair. He suggested we get together on a joint project and things just came together," reports Mach. "Mike agreed to host the event and things took off from there."

The workshop consisted of a full two day agenda of technical sessions and opportunities for the 60 attendees from 40 educational institutions across the country to socialize and network. After a brief kick off by Vice-President of Academic Affairs, Michael Harris, ARI Director for Education, Ray Mach, and HVACR Program Chair, Mike Feutz, the first day's agenda started with a presentation by HVACR Instructional Designer, Enid Carlson-Nagel illustrating to the attending instructors how students learn. The attendees were given the opportunity to share their experiences in motivating and developing students. She was followed by Emerson's Al Maier who discussed the newest types and advantages of electronic regulators in supermarket refrigeration racks. Al's presentation was followed by a split session with Jim Bergman, the NEWS/ARI 2004-2005 HVACR Instructor of the Year, presenting the advantages of digital system analyzers used to troubleshoot and commission systems, and Jack Wiechertjes, of Thermotron Industries, introducing the new S4-T Refrigeration Trainer. The day concluded with FSU's HVACR Assistant Professor, Doug Zentz and Program Chair, Mike Feutz presenting sessions on introducing students to large mechanical systems and using a state-of-the-art facility like the Granger Center for instructional purposes. Upon completion of the first day's agenda the group traveled to Grand Rapids for a Whitecaps baseball game and barbecue.

Day two got off to a quick and productive start with Mike Feutz discussing academic counseling and opportunities presented in continuing education. Next was the State of Michigan's Mechanical Division Chief, Tennison Barry, who discussed understanding the new codes and teaching to the Inspector's expectations. Jim Mowery, of Bacharach, followed with a presentation on the history of refrigerant recovery, methods and machines. After

lunch, Ray Mach presented PAHRA plaques to representatives of Miami Valley Career Center, of Clayton, Ohio; Pitt Community College, of Winterville, NC; and the Technical Education Center of Osceola, located in Kissimmee, FL. The afternoon's technical program concluded with Tecumseh Products' Jim Rutz discussing the impact of trends and advances in HVACR on career opportunities along with FSU's Environmental Health and Safety Management Professor, Dr. Gary Rodabaugh, presenting a session on how to teach students about environmental health contamination in buildings. After the technical program ended, ARI's Kate Martz administered ICE and NATE exams free of charge and Mike Feutz conducted an equipment giveaway. This was followed by a golf outing at FSU's Katke Golf Course.

The workshop was deemed a complete success. The Workshop Coordinators, FSU's HVACR personnel, PR Marketing and Distance Learning Coordinator Jill Trinklein, HVACR Department Secretary Jannifer Anderson, and ARI's Testing Proctor Kate Martz deserve special recognition for their efforts. Additionally, The Granger Center for Construction and HVACR was an ideal location to support the sessions and interaction required of an instructor's forum.

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"The workshop was a tremendous success," said Mike Feutz, Chair of the HVACR Department at Ferris State University. "We were honored to co-host this workshop, and excited to showcase the excellent new Granger Center. I have heard nothing but positive comments, and it was truly a pleasure working with Ray Mach. His dedication and enthusiasm is obvious. The industry is lucky to have him as ARI's Director of Education." Feutz continues, "ARI's support of education in the HVACR industry is much needed, and the instructor workshops have made great strides in bringing HVACR educators together and raising the educational bar."