

April 22, 2005

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Mechanical Service Contractors Association (MSCA) Student Chapter Attends MSCA Annual Educational Conference

Faculty advisor Mike Feutz also accompanied students Bruce Wenzlick, Andrew Delonge, Sam Marotta, Matt Klok, Adam Dukavas, Rob Tilma, Scott Chvojka, Nick Schoendorf, Alex Gasper and Neal Betts to the 22nd annual MSCA Educational Conference, held October 14-17, 2007 at the spectacular Broadmoor Hotel and Resort in Colorado Springs. For the second year in a row, Ferris students acted as recording secretaries to capture the thoughts and ideas of contractor members as they met in roundtables to discuss several topic areas (local technical training, local recruiting efforts, principals focus (succession planning, strategic planning, disaster recovery, etc), incentive plans, green opportunities, fleet management/gps, peer group best practices, emerging trends (benchmark survey), in-house training (developing talent), competition (manufacturers, non-union, growing service, and building teamwork). This provided an excellent opportunity for the students to learn about the world of contracting from the contractors themselves, while the MSCA appreciated the minutes as recorded by the students.

During the conference, each student is “adopted” by a contractor mentor and spends much of the week with their mentor. Students meet other contractors from their mentor’s state as they join them for dinner on Monday evening at a local restaurant. The experience is extremely valuable for the students as they not only network with

contractors, but develop friendships and learn far more about contracting than they could in any classroom.

Each year, the conference provides the opportunity for students to learn from numerous breakout sessions related to contracting and HVACR. This year, featured speakers included John Foley, former lead pilot for the Blue Angel and inspirational speaker Frank Miles, who clinically died and now shares his perspective on living.

Students enjoyed a special treat this year as HVACR alumnus Russ Borst became MSCA chairman for 2008. Borst is a member of the HVACR advisory committee and serves as an industry advisor for the MSCA student chapter.