



Insights Summit '17 – Session Abstracts

Tuesday, November 14; 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm

Innovative Strategies for Closing the Stewardship Gap

Whether your institution thinks about it as deferred maintenance, capital renewal, or modernization, the hard truth is that colleges and universities are looking for ways to increase the financial investment required to manage the upkeep of their campuses or increase the value from existing funding streams. This powerful panel discussion will feature input from a number of Universities that have turned to alternative models to help close the funding gap.

Speakers:

Ben Suplick, Director of Operations & Maintenance Administration, University of Pennsylvania
Don Guckert, Associate Vice President & Director for Facilities Management, University of Iowa
Scott Turley, Executive Director of Campus Utilities, University of Arkansas
Matthew Bausher, Senior Director of Member Services, Sightlines

The Changing Landscape of Sustainability

This session offers a first look at the 2017 “State of Sustainability in Higher Education,” a joint report from Sightlines and the University of New Hampshire. This year, we investigate the impact of energy metering, capital infusions, and LEED certification on building-level performance and occupant satisfaction. From our findings, we’ll provide a series of recommendations for how institutions can improve the sustainability performance of their existing buildings while reducing risk and operating costs on campus, and examine an incentive program at Texas A&M that encourages academic departments to invest in deferred maintenance projects by financially rewarding those that successfully reduce their building’s energy use intensity.

Speakers:

Jane Schneider, AVP for Facilities and Operations, Texas A&M University
Heather Finnegan, Product Manager for Sustainability, Sightlines



Balancing Act: Managing Space While Reducing Deferred Maintenance

The efficient use of space at colleges and universities is a key concern for finance and facilities leaders. When you couple that with the need to manage deferred maintenance in buildings of diverse age, size, and function, that's quite a balancing act! How can you create a plan that manages space as efficiently as possible, while using available funds to make the most impact on the needs of that space? Kim Kvaal, VP of Financial Affairs at St. Edward's University in Austin, TX will discuss campus policy shifts that allowed the institution to better target facilities needs on a building-by-building basis, increase efficient use of space, and transition from reactive to proactive maintenance.

Speakers:

Christopher "Kit" Johnson, AVP for Master Planning and Construction, St. Edward's University
Nate Pramuk, Senior Account Manager, Sightlines

Tuesday, November 14; 2:15 pm – 3:15 pm

Managing the Evolving Workforce

Evolving workforces are part of the human condition. Yet today, there are numerous forces making that evolution anything but typical. A large percentage of the current facilities workforce is reaching retirement age seemingly all at once. At the same time, fewer young people are entering the facilities profession—particularly in the skilled trades. There is a much-discussed change in approach to work among millennials, and the marketplace is often presenting financially attractive employment options outside of higher education. What to do? In this session, attendees will participate in a conversation about how schools are taking on the challenge and creating new solutions to an age old problem of change and transition.

Speakers:

Dennis Bailey, Associate Vice President for Facilities, Florida State University
Marta Solinas-Hovar, AVP for Facilities Planning & Operations, University of Texas – Rio Grande Valley
Pete Zuraw, Vice President of Market Strategy & Development, Sightlines

An Officer and a University

There are a surprising number of similarities between college and university campuses and our nation's military bases: for instance, residential, administrative, and technical buildings aging and facing the challenges of limited funding and rising deferred maintenance. Many retired armed forces veterans with facilities experience find their way to America's college campuses.



This panel discussion will focus on the strategies and best practices learned in the military that have translated into success in higher education. What can those of us who haven't served learn to make us more effective as we lead our departments? What lessons can we learn from their military experience?

Speakers:

Dave Maharrey, Executive Director of Facilities Services, Louisiana State University
Tom Satterly, Associate Vice President for Facilities Management, Colorado State University
Kevan Will, Senior Account Manager, Sightlines

9 Things You Should Be Doing on the Member Portal...But Probably Aren't

The Member Portal is one of the most valuable tools that Sightlines offers to our members. But with so much information at your fingertips, it can be overwhelming! Attendees will learn from the experts on how to get the most out of the member portal to maximize your membership. Learn about using the Cost Forecaster to find the space, capital, and operational impact of new construction or demolition. Discover how to create custom benchmarks, view line-item data, compare your performance to database averages, and much more.

Speaker:

Kathleen Buckley, Service Manager, Sightlines

Wednesday, November 15; 11:30 am – 12:30 pm

Bringing Your Facilities Assessment to Life

In search of the data needed to balance the programmatic, operational, and physical growth of their campuses, facilities leaders have turned—or are turning—to Facilities Condition Assessments (FCA) to help develop the credible facilities condition data they need. But capital planning is more than just a project list. Both University of San Diego and Wake Forest University were challenged to turn project lists into actions and create forward-facing, finance-approved plans to improve facilities conditions and maximize University impact. This session will focus on how to begin the process of prioritizing needs and creating a forward-facing facilities plan and the benefits of measuring and comparing facilities performance to peers.

Speakers:

Melissa Plaskonos, Assistant Vice President for Facilities Management, University of San Diego
John Shenette, Associate Vice President for Facilities & Campus Services, Wake Forest University
Gabby Rosas, Associate Director of Member Services, Sightlines
Dan Starr, Member Services Account Manager, Sightlines



#SocialMaintenance: Facilities Communication in the 21st Century

From Twitter and Facebook to Instagram and Snapchat, your campus users are more comfortable speaking in #hashtags than they are in person or through a work order. Yet few facilities groups are engaging in these forms of proactive communication, either to interact with the campus student body or to promote their team's exceptional work. This interactive and informative session will focus on facilities leaders who are successfully embracing social media as a tool to engage and share information with their student bodies, receive work orders, and put facilities in the spotlight. Various techniques to be discussed include choosing the right platform, using the right tools, and how to engage with students as partners.

Speakers:

Dave Irvin, Associate Vice Chancellor for Facilities Services, University of Tennessee – Knoxville
Mark Helms, Associate Vice President for Physical Plant Division, University of Florida
Caroline Johnson, Regional Service Manager, Sightlines

From Strategy to Execution: How Gordian Can Help Complete Your Sightlines Journey

As a Sightlines member you understand the benefits of measuring and comparing performance to your peers and are able to create a proactive facilities management plan. But do you have the right tools and processes in place to efficiently execute that plan? When most construction, repair, and maintenance takes place during academic breaks, you must maximize every available resource to complete projects on time and on budget. Gordian's Job Order Contracting (JOC) procurement solutions extend the strategy you began with Sightlines to complete more campus projects with the same amount of resources. Learn how JOC transformed construction procurement and improved project performance at several institutions via price transparency, a collaborative relationship with awarded contractors, simplified project preparation, and faster response times.

Speakers:

Daniel Pisaniello, Facilities Management AVC, University of Pittsburgh
David Rasberry, Enterprise Account Executive, Gordian