

Alabama Council of Air Conditioning and Refrigeration Educators (ACARE)

ACARE was established in June 2005. Although it is a fairly new chapter, tremendous progress has been made in a relatively short period of time. As part of the groups purpose, mission and vision statement, three main goals were adopted- unified communication, educators training, and industry partnerships with educators.

Unified communication

Early on it was determined one of the greatest needs between postsecondary/ technical programs, industry programs, and secondary programs was to provide a unified means of communication between the instructors. ACARE has created a listing of all educators in Alabama involved in the instruction of air conditioning and refrigeration (secondary, postsecondary, and industry) along with an operational list that provides for the distribution of information to all ACARE members throughout the state.

Educators training

ACARE has partnered with the Alabama Power Company HVAC Training Center to host the annual HVAC instructors workshop. These events are available not only to secondary and postsecondary instructors but also to industry trainers from throughout the region. Industry specialists provide instruction on a variety of topics, including the most current technology in the HVACR industry and teaching materials available for use in the classroom. In addition, information is provided regarding changes to state and federal regulations as they relate to the HVACR industry. ACARE has invited several educators from surrounding states to attend these sessions with the purpose of encouraging them in establishing a CARE chapter in their home state.

Industrial partnerships with educators

ACARE has a policy that allows open forums during the meetings. This provides for the discussion of member concerns for training materials, equipment needs, and alternative teaching methods. This sharing process allows members to become aware of the many resources available to them throughout the industry. A new instructor mentoring program has been implemented in which a new instructor is paired with one with teaching experience. Sources of free or low cost materials are discussed, equipment donations have been secured, and surplus equipment and supplies have been shared with other programs in the state that are in need of same.

At the conclusion of the 2008 ACARE workshop, the Alabama Power Heat Pump Training Center donated training equipment to all workshop participants. The donations were divided into lots with each lot containing a variety of items. The attendees were assigned lottery numbers and were allowed to choose among the lots when their number was drawn until all equipment was distributed. What a wonderful example of a successful partnering between education and industry!



ACARE Instructor's Workshop

Hosted by

Alabama Power's HVAC Training Center

Agenda

Thursday, July 31, 2008

8:00 am -----Welcome – Joel Owen and Rick McClinton, Alabama Power

8:15 am -----ACARE Meeting - Sonny Logan

8:45 am -----Brazing Technology- Harold Nelson, AirOn Supply, Inc.

10:15 am -----Break

10:30 am -----R407c Retrofitting- John Todd, Weathertech

12:00 am -----Lunch

12:45 pm -----Variable/X13/Evergreen Motors - Chris Mohalley, GE ECM by

Regal-Beloit

3:45 pm -----Break

4:00 pm -----Testo Meters- Jim Bergmann

4:30 pm -----Learning Labs– Cliff Ratliff

5:00 pm -----Cookout and Fellowship

Free ICE Exams will be available after the cookout

Friday, August 1, 2008

8:00 am -----HVACR Programs and the Future - Warren Lupson, AHRI

9:30 am -----Break

9:45 am-----Comfort Link II- Jeff Marquess, Air Engineers

11:00 am-----Future Tek – Eugene Kimble

11:30 am -----Lunch

12:15 pm -----HVACR Program Grants, Alabama Power Foundation

12:45 pm -----Closing Comments - Joel