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ASHRAE Insights
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FACES OF ASHRAE: Akshay Bhargava

Akshay Bhargava, P.E., LEED Green Associate, is a mechanical engineer at CMTA in Indianapolis, Ind. He began his involvement in ASHRAE as a student member in 2015 and has been actively engaged ever since.

▸ Education

MS, Mechanical Engineering, Florida Institute of Technology, Fla.

B. Tech, Mechanical Engineering, India

▸ What Technical Committees or other parts of ASHRAE are you involved with?

I am actively engaged in a variety of grassroots groups and technical committees within ASHRAE, spanning from regional to local levels as well as technical committees. I hold the position of Membership Promotion Regional Vice Chair for Region V. I am also Secretary and a Voting Member for the SPC 126 committee. On a technical level, I serve as the Vice Chair for TC 5.2. I am also a Corresponding Member for a number of other technical committees, including TCs 5.1, 4.3, 4.1 and 1.3.

In terms of grassroots involvement, I've held the role of Past President for the Central Indiana Chapter for two terms: 2022-2023 and 2023-2024. I also sit on the Board of Governors for the Central Indiana Chapter.

▸ What got you into the industry?

After completing my master's degree and job searching, John Constantinide, current DRC for Region XII, informed me about the ASHRAE LeaDRS program. During the conference, both John and Dan Rogers, who was the Region XII DRC at the time, introduced me to everyone with a direct recommendation — "This is Akshay, he's looking for a job. If you have any openings or know someone who does, hire him!" Following the conference, Doug Fick hired me and has been mentoring me ever since.

▸ What is your favorite part of your job?

My favorite part of my job is finding innovative, energy-efficient, sustainable solutions for building mechanical systems while collaborating with architects, contractors and other engineers to bring complex designs to life, making each project a unique challenge.

▸ What are the biggest challenges you see the industry facing?

One of the biggest I see is the widening gap between the demand for skilled labor and the available workforce, which is further compounded by the rapid change in HVAC systems and technological advancements to meet energy efficiency and sustainability goals.

▸ How do you think the industry could best address this challenge?

One effective way to address this challenge is by actively promoting HVAC careers to younger generations. Engaging with high school and middle school students to showcase career opportunities in HVAC and related fields can create early awareness and help attract more talent into the industry. Additionally, establishing mentorship programs that support new entrants into the industry, particularly those from non-traditional backgrounds, can provide valuable guidance and foster a more diverse and skilled workforce.

▸ What has been your favorite part of being an ASHRAE member?

The aspect of ASHRAE I enjoy the most is the opportunity for networking. It has given me the unique chance to connect with individuals from all corners of the globe, fostering relationships I might not have been able to establish otherwise.

▸ What do you enjoy doing when you are away from work?

As a dad of a four-month-old, I treasure the time spent with my family and the special moments with my baby. Watching my little one grow has been incredibly rewarding and a welcome break from work, allowing me to focus on creating lasting memories. Before parenthood, my wife and I loved traveling and exploring new places, making the most of holidays and weekends. Now, I look forward to when our child is older so we can travel together and make new family memories.

▸ One thing you wished you knew when you started in the industry?

I wish I had known the importance of understanding the full life cycle of HVAC systems, not just design and installation. Early in my career, I might have benefited from a deeper understanding of how ongoing maintenance, operational efficiency and the impact of emerging technologies influence the overall performance and sustainability of HVAC systems over time.