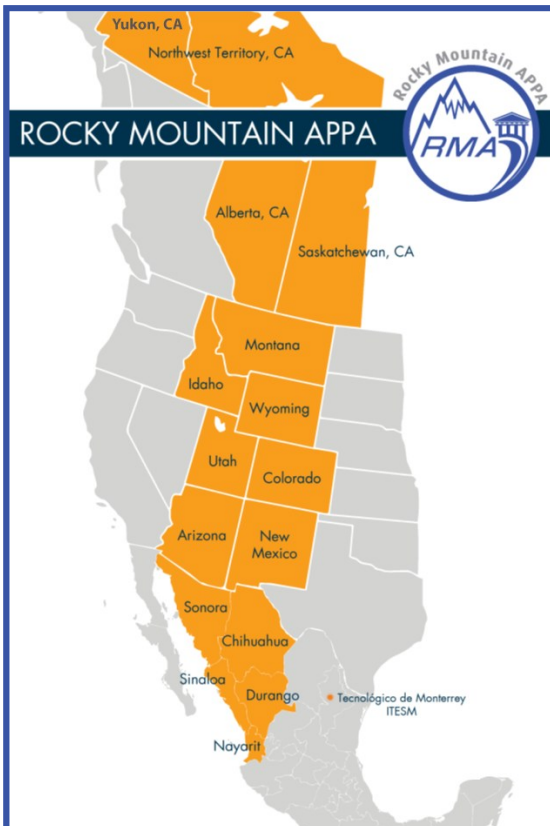




## A message from the RMA President Chris Kopach

*RMA President 2026-2027*



Dear RMA Colleagues,

It is an honor to serve as President of the Rocky Mountain APPA (RMA), and I am excited about the opportunity to work with our Members, Board, State Chapters, Business Partners, and APPA colleagues across the region.

Our theme for the next two years is **“Unfinished Business and Giving Back to Our Members.”** This theme reflects both where we are today and where we have an opportunity to go together. We will build on the strong foundation established by previous RMA leaders while asking ourselves what remains unfinished, where we can improve, and how we can provide even greater value to our members. Most importantly, we will focus on giving back through knowledge sharing, mentorship, professional development, relationships, training, and leadership opportunities.

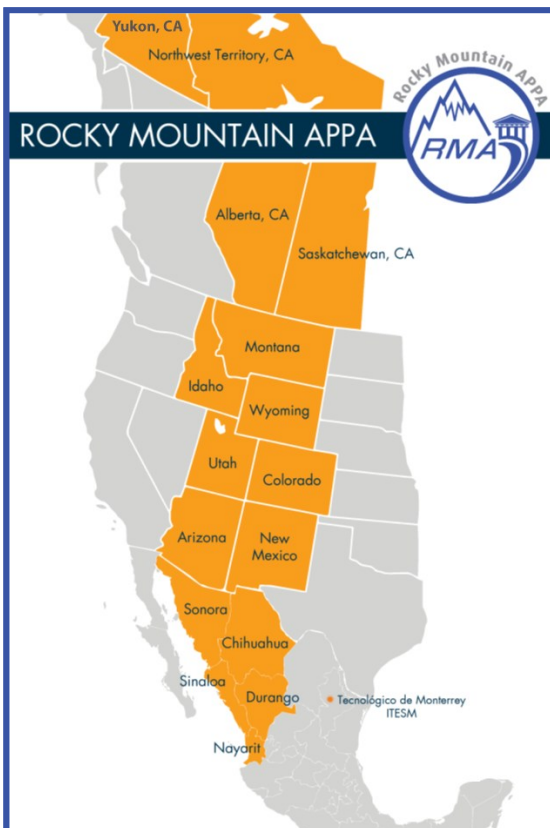
Our profession is changing, and the challenges we face—from workforce shortages and the loss of institutional knowledge to membership engagement, succession planning, and financial pressures—also creates tremendous opportunities. RMA can be a place where we learn from one another, develop the next generation of facilities professionals, strengthen our state chapters, connect students and emerging professionals to our industry, and share the expertise that exists throughout our region. We cannot accomplish this individually; we must do it together as **One RMA Board, One RMA Region, and One Shared Mission**. Over the next two years, my goal is simple: to strengthen our organization, engage our members, develop future leaders, and give back to our profession and communities. Two years will pass quickly, so let’s make them count—and most importantly, let’s leave RMA stronger than we found it.

*Chris Kopach*

*RMA President*

*Associate Vice President, University Facility Services*

*University of Arizona*



## RMA Board of Directors



**Christopher M Kopach**  
Associate Vice President,  
University of Arizona  
RMA President



**John Herrera**  
Director,  
Arizona State University -  
Tempe  
Immediate Past President,  
APPA Regional Director



**Christina Sumaya-Orozco**  
HR Program Manager,  
University of Colorado  
Boulder  
Annual Meeting  
Coordinator



**Joshua Sylvester**  
AVP of Facilities Services,  
Salt Lake Community College  
Awards and Recognition  
Chair



**Jessie Fleming,**  
Senior Account Executive,  
McKinstry  
Business Partner Representative



**Nicholas Johnson**  
AVP of Campus Operations  
& Facilities Services,  
Colorado College  
Communications Coordinator



**Luis Rocha**  
Executive Director Operations,  
University of Arizona  
14ers Club Lead Climber



**Mitchell Kane Urdahl**  
Campus Maintenance  
Manager,  
Montana State University  
Historian



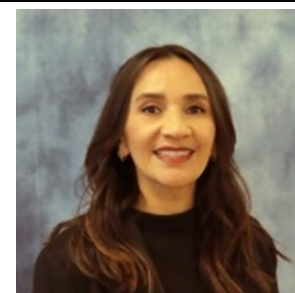
**Jessica Bradley**  
Director, Facilities Services,  
University of Colorado  
Boulder  
Host Committee Chair



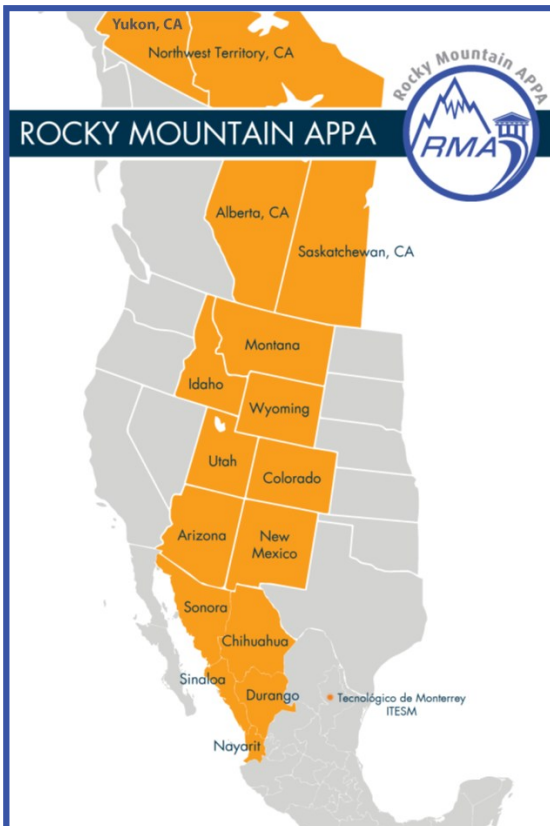
**Lorraine Silva**  
Mgr, Facilities Utility,  
New Mexico State  
University-Main Campus  
Membership Chair



**Joshua Spear**  
Director of Planning Design  
& Construction,  
Northern Arizona University  
Professional Development  
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**Renee Dominguez Cota**  
Director, University of Arizona  
Secretary / Treasurer



## 2026 RMA Scholarship Recipients

During the September 2026 RMA Annual Conference in Tempe, Arizona, the following APPA/RMA members were selected to receive RMA Scholarships to cover tuition for APPA's **Leadership Academy** or the **Institute for Facilities Management**:

**Brett McFarland** - *University of Colorado Springs*

**Josh Turnquist** - *University of Colorado Boulder*

**Kyle Cooper** - *Adams State University*

**Tom Worley** - *Adams State University*

**James Warren** - *University of Colorado*

**RMA is committed to helping members grow in their field through a wide variety of activities, including the Academy and the Institute.**

*"The professional development of personnel in the field of facilities (operations, maintenance, design, construction, etc.) is essential to ensure that the employee can continue to meet the challenges and take advantage of the opportunities available in providing facility services to the institution." -RMA website regarding scholarships.*

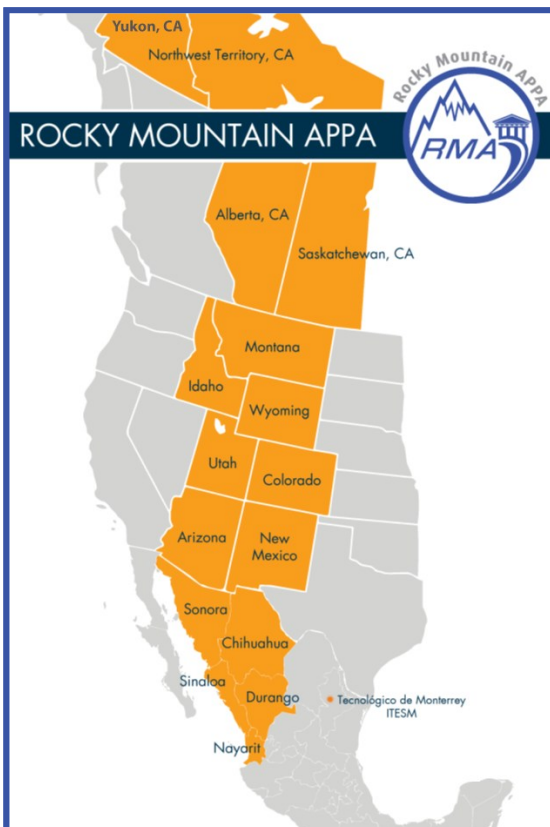
Through the Academy and the Institute, APPA and RMA are passionate about developing not just managers, but leaders within the educational facilities sector. Leadership is not just a position held; it is an attitude and a lifestyle that strives to encourage and empower others and oneself to continually improve the effectiveness and efficiency of their service.

Applicants active in APPA and RMA are evaluated by the RMA Board based upon financial need, demonstrated commitment to the facilities profession, progressive career development within the profession, and potential for future career development. Special consideration is given to women, minorities and disabled applicants. Preference is also shown to members who have participated in RMA **14er's Mentoring Program** and to Leadership Academy applicants who have already earned APPA's **EFP** or **CEFP** certifications.

*For more scholarship information and application forms, go to the RMA Website at:*

<https://rma.appa.org/scholarships/>





**CU Boulder** has been awarded the **Sustainability Institution of the Year** by the **International Green Gown Awards**, making it the first U.S. institution to receive this prestigious international honor. The award recognizes universities that demonstrate a sustained institution-wide commitment to sustainability and meaningful progress across their operations, academics, and engagement with their communities.

Presented by the **Environmental Association for Universities and Colleges (EAUC)**, the Green Gown Awards celebrate sustainability leadership across higher education worldwide.

Since 2014, the awards have recognized institutions and projects that are helping transform the role of higher education in addressing environmental and social challenges.

The judges recognized CU Boulder's holistic approach, which integrates sustainability into research, education, campus operations, governance and community engagement, along with its progress in tracking and reporting measurable outcomes.

*"This recognition is a reflection of the fact that sustainability at CU Boulder is a team sport,"* said Andrew Mayock, Vice Chancellor of Sustainability at CU Boulder. *"It is the result of a community-wide commitment to making sustainability part of how we teach, how we conduct research, how we operate our campus and how we engage with the world around us."*

This approach was showcased by CU Boulder's long history of sustainability leadership, from world-class climate science research to sustainability-focused curriculum across colleges and departments, accelerated by the **SPIKE Center for Sustainability Education**. CU Boulder is also home to the nation's oldest student-driven environmental center, is one of the most bike-friendly campuses in the nation, has eliminated single-use plastics in dining halls and campus-wide, and has a 50-year history of student-led campus recycling efforts.

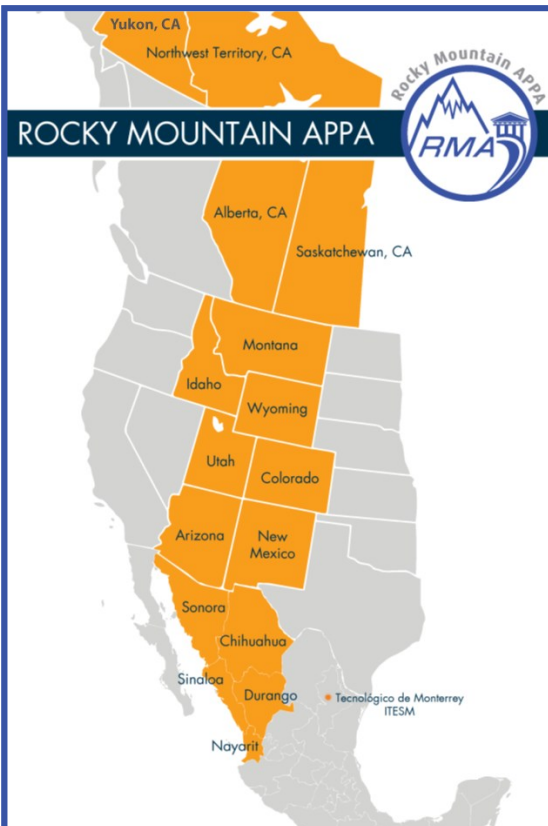
More recent efforts include an ambitious climate action plan, **Boulder Climate Ventures**, and a growing portfolio of sustainability-related research, innovation, and spinouts. CU Boulder also partners with businesses, organizations, and peers not only in Boulder, Colorado, but across the U.S. and globally to develop collaborative approaches to climate change and sustainability-related issues. For example, CU Boulder serves as the global secretariat of the world's largest subnational government network for forests and climate, the **Governors' Climate and Forests Task Force**, which works in 11 countries, 54 states/provinces, and covers one-third of the world's tropical forests.

The recognition comes during CU Boulder's 150th anniversary year, a milestone that Chancellor Justin Schwartz said makes the award particularly meaningful.



**CU Boulder**

**Sustainability Institution of the Year**



## CU Boulder *(continued)*

*“Receiving the Green Gown Award during CU Boulder’s 150th anniversary is especially meaningful because it honors our history and defines our future,” Schwartz said. “This recognition reflects the dedication of an entire community, our faculty, staff, students and partners—all who believe higher education must lead on the defining challenges of our time. I am grateful for their dedication and proud of how CU Boulder continues to integrate sustainability into our teaching, research, operations and public mission.”*

CU Boulder joins past recipients such as McGill University and the University of Technology Sydney as an international leader in sustainability. This year’s Green Gown Award winners represent institutions and initiatives from 18 countries across six continents.

The Sustainability Institution of the Year award is determined through a two-stage application and a judging process involving experts from leading sustainability and higher education organizations, including the **United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)**, **International Association of Universities (IAU)**, and **Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE)**.

CU Boulder plans to build on its institutional foundation and history tied to sustainability, growing the university’s impact on campus and beyond by educating the climate leaders of tomorrow and investing in research, innovation and collaborative partnerships to drive real-time action and change.

***RMA Wishes to acknowledge these Partners for generously underwriting this year’s Annual Conference.***

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