

CFTA 2026

ANNUAL CONFERENCE

August 4 - 6, 2026
Minneapolis, MN



Session Descriptions

Alphabetical Order by Title

Advancing the Geospatial Strategy of the University of Rhode Island

Maegan Shanaghan, The University of Rhode Island & Chris Akin, Paratum Solutions & Jeffrey Ulricksen, The University of Rhode Island

8/6/2026, 11:00:00 AM

Description: Through a collaboration with Paratum Solutions, the University of Rhode Island has advanced its geospatial strategy using ArcGIS Indoors and 3D GIS. The team configured floorplans and space data to enable campus-wide indoor space management. Building on this work, they converted campus facilities into 3D from publicly available LiDAR to support a campus Digital Twin, the Campus Master Plan, and Esri's Community Maps.

Primary (and Related) Topic(s): GIS|System/Data Integration

AI-Powered Document Management: Transforming PITT's Archives

Vivica Williams, archSCAN, LLC & TO BE DETERMINED- Michelle, Steve, or Christine from PITT, University of Pittsburgh

8/5/2026, 10:15:00 AM

Description: AI is becoming deeply embedded in our daily lives bringing both opportunities and challenges. In the field of document management, however, its impact has been especially positive. This session explores how archSCAN leverages AI to streamline the management, review, and indexing of files. Using the University of Pittsburgh's archives as a case study, we'll highlight the practical ways AI can enhance efficiency, accuracy, and accessibility in modern archival workflows.

Primary (and Related) Topic(s): Document Management|

Are You Working IN Your GIS or ON It?

Larisa Kruger, The Ohio State University

8/6/2026, 1:15:00 PM

Description: Is your GIS team one person or twenty? Either way, strategic planning is a necessity, but daily demands make it hard to step back and assess whether your work aligns with your mission. A retreat gives your team that space: time to evaluate projects, audit processes, and ask hard questions about workflows, efficiency, and growth. Learn how to plan a retreat and turn a day away from your desk into a roadmap for your team and institution. Applicable to all kinds of teams.

Primary (and Related) Topic(s): GIS|

Bringing GIS Inside: Core Workflows and Innovations in ArcGIS Indoors

JW Saunders, Esri

8/5/2026, 9:00:00 AM

Description: Higher education institutions often have floor plans from BIM, CAD, PDFs, or create it with Lidar scans, but lack a shared operational view across campus. This session shows how to turn those floor plans into a floor-aware system of record with ArcGIS Indoors to support asset and space management, safety and security, wayfinding, and 360° indoor visualizations. Attendees will learn workflows for creating indoor maps and using GIS to connect people, places, buildings, and campus operations.

Primary (and Related) Topic(s): GIS|BIM|CAD|GIS|Space Information & Management|System/Data Integration|

Brown University's Journey to Accessibility Compliance

Colin Johnson, Brown University & Chris Akin, Paratum Solutions & Chad Cavanaugh, Brown University

8/5/2026, 11:15:00 AM

Description: In the modern campus environment, web accessibility is as critical as physical ADA access. This session explores how Brown University Facilities and Campus Operations, in partnership with Paratum Solutions, overhauled its geospatial infrastructure to prioritize digital inclusivity. We will share the story of our migration from an aging Google Maps platform to an ArcGIS Online solution specifically engineered to meet WCAG 2.1 compliance standards.

Primary (and Related) Topic(s): GIS|Space Information & Management|System/Data Integration

Building a Campus UAS & Reality Capture Program from the Ground Up

Nathan Exley, Baylor University

8/6/2026, 1:15:00 PM

Description: How does a university FM department stand up an in-house Geospatial and Reality Capture Program drones, GNSS, thermal imaging, multispectral “ without a playbook? Baylor FM built one from scratch: scoping use cases across utilities, roofing, and campus mapping; running a structured RFP and vendor demo evaluation; developing an ROI framework; and designing governance, intake workflows, and FAA compliance procedures. This session walks through every decision so you don't have to start from zero.

Primary (and Related) Topic(s): New or Emerging Technologies|Document Management|GIS|System/Data Integration|Utilities

Empower Space Management & Workplace Reservations with ArcGIS Indoors Spaces

JW Saunders, Esri & Jeff Ulricksen, University of Rhode Island

8/5/2026, 2:45:00 PM

Description: With ArcGIS Indoors Spaces, you get the complete indoor mapping experience for wayfinding, space management, and reservations, available in web and native mobile apps. You can enable various work modalities, such as hybrid workplaces and other space-sharing scenarios, depending on your organization's needs. Join us to discover core workflows and some of the latest developments at the University of Rhode Island.

Primary (and Related) Topic(s): GIS|New or Emerging Technologies|Space Information & Management

Facilities and Everything Else: Navigating the New Campus Operating Model

Jimmie Hardin, Georgia Tech

8/6/2026, 2:30:00 PM

Description: This facilitated roundtable explores the various organizational models used to support functions traditionally housed within higher education facilities, such as data, analytics, automation, digital platforms, GIS, and IT/OT. We'll discuss examples where these responsibilities remain within facilities as well as models where they are distributed across multiple organizations, comparing structures, tradeoffs, and lessons learned.

Future-Proofing Campus Operations: AI Tools for the Modern Facilities Leaders

Ryan Alu, FMX

8/6/2026, 11:00:00 AM

Description: Higher Education facilities teams face budget deficits, aging infrastructure, and labor shortages. In this session, our presenter shows how AI and data act as a "Rosetta Stone" and cut administrative burden, improve data quality, automate lifecycle planning, and prove the cost of deferred maintenance. All of these factors help facilities leaders shift from reactive spending to strategic planning, while focusing on the human elements of managing facilities and operations teams.

Primary (and Related) Topic(s): New or Emerging Technologies|Integrated Workplace Management Systems|System/Data Integration

How the University of Notre Dame created a unified hub for facility information

Steven Bowley, Cloudpoint Geospatial & Tricia Bulson, University of Notre Dame

8/4/2026, 3:30:00 PM

Description: The University of Notre Dame migrated its 11.5M sq ft facilities management system to Esri ArcGIS Indoors. By integrating CAD, ERP, and IWMS data, the university created a centralized Indoor GIS hub. To overcome role-based access challenges, organization assignments and PI allocations, the project required a custom Space Manager app built using ArcGIS Experience Builder Developer Edition. This modernized platform delivers secure, automated, and actionable space management across the campus

Primary (and Related) Topic(s): GIS|CAD|Space Information & Management|System/Data Integration

How to Build in Flexibility and Scalability into an IWMS

Gretchen Tucker, University of Kentucky & Jessica Freeman, University of Kentucky

8/5/2026, 2:45:00 PM

Description: Discover how combining a robust "single source of truth" property hierarchy, a location-based PM asset inventory, and well thought out workflows directly accelerate operational workflows. See how University of Kentucky is intertwining systems to transform everyday mechanical failures and customer requests into automated, highly accurate work requests and orders as well as delivering highly reliable reporting and superior scalability.

Primary (and Related) Topic(s): Integrated Workplace Management Systems|CAD|GIS|System/Data Integration

Lessons Learned From Our First Two Drone Imagery Captures of UT Knoxville Campus

Adam Trent, The University of Tennessee Knoxville & Taylor Flamont, The University of Tennessee Knoxville & Maria Martinez, The University of Tennessee Knoxville

8/4/2026, 3:30:00 PM

Description: We'll discuss the planning and execution of our first two drone imagery captures on the University of Tennessee Knoxville's campus. We'll touch on all aspects of the drone flight, head back to the office to discuss imagery processing and presentation with ArcGIS Drone2Map and Experience Builder.

Primary (and Related) Topic(s): New or Emerging Technologies|GIS

Practical AI Applications in Facility Assessment and Capital Planning

Steven Warshaw, Intellis Labs

8/5/2026, 11:15:00 AM

Description: AI is helping facility teams improve efficiency, consistency, and decision-making despite limited resources. This session shows practical applications, including computer vision for faster inspections, automation for reporting, and improved data access through better interfaces. It also highlights visual tools to support stakeholder communication. Attendees will gain actionable steps to integrate AI into current workflows and enhance capital planning outcomes.

Primary (and Related) Topic(s): Integrated Workplace Management Systems|New or Emerging Technologies|Space Information & Management|System/Data Integration

Safe and Smart: Leveraging ArcGIS Indoors for Security Operations

Chris Akin, Paratum Solutions

8/5/2026, 1:45:00 PM

Description: School security teams face growing challenges in monitoring complex building layouts, coordinating responses, and maintaining situational awareness. ArcGIS Indoors can serve as a centralized map-based command tool for safety and security operations. Attendees will learn how to visualize access points, restricted areas, and surveillance zones and provide dispatchers and officers

with location intelligence inside buildings to improve coordination between public safety, facilities, and IT teams.

Primary (and Related) Topic(s): GIS|New or Emerging Technologies|Space Information & Management|System/Data Integration

Scaling Fault Detection and Diagnostics at Western Michigan University

DeVon Miller, Western Michigan University

8/5/2026, 10:15:00 AM

Description: Eight years ago, Western Michigan University launched fault detection and diagnostics (FDD) across eight buildings. Today, the program has grown to include 23 buildings and 2,000 monitored pieces of equipment and has driven 746 corrective actions that have resulted in \$568,000 in annual avoidable cost (a 1.4-year payback).

Primary (and Related) Topic(s): New or Emerging Technologies|

Scan It, Model It, Use It: Putting BIM Data to Work for Your Campus

Sarah Brown, Northeastern University & Peter Garran, BIMstream & Sam Margolis, BIMstream

8/5/2026, 1:45:00 PM

Description: The hardest part of a campus BIM program isn't scanning or modeling, it's what comes after. How do you make building data accessible beyond design teams? How do you connect it to existing systems? And how do you keep it from decaying into another archive? Northeastern and its Reality Capture partner BIMstream have been tackling this building by building, collaboratively. This session shares what we learned about visibility, integration, and maintenance - and the tools we built to make it work.

Primary (and Related) Topic(s): BIM|GIS|Integrated Workplace Management Systems|New or Emerging Technologies|Space Information & Management|System/Data Integration

The API-First Campus: Transitioning from Monolithic Data Structures

Treavon Clark, The Ohio State University & , & ,

8/5/2026, 4:00:00 PM

Description: Break the cycle of monolithic data design. This session critiques the data status quo in higher ed, advocating for a shift where internal systems are treated primarily as API endpoints. Implement ecosystem-wide unique ID naming conventions and establish a shared language with your campus technology. I will share Ohio State University's recent success outside of traditional GIS, empowering you to champion a more fluid, integrated university data environment.

Primary (and Related) Topic(s): System/Data Integration|BIM|GIS|Integrated Workplace Management Systems|Space Information & Management|System/Data Integration

The Pro's and Con's of Moving Your Facility Documents to the Cloud

Matt Lane, Hagerman & Company & Colin Johnson, Brown University

8/5/2026, 4:00:00 PM

Description: More universities are moving to SaaS-based solutions. Matt and Colin will review the pro's and con's of moving your drawings and documents to the cloud including the limitations of generic solutions such as SharePoint and Google Drive. Colin will cover the details of Brown's recent migration to RedEye, Accruent's new SaaS-based solution specifically designed for facilities departments. Attendees will be invited to share any experiences of their own as well.

Primary (and Related) Topic(s): Document Management|New or Emerging Technologies

Transforming University Operations Through AI: An Agentic-Driven Approach to FM

Daniel Eron, JLL

8/5/2026, 9:00:00 AM

Description: This presentation explores how AI-powered platforms like JLL's Azara are revolutionizing university campus operations by consolidating disparate data sources into unified intelligence systems creating a single source of truth, empowering university leaders to make holistic decisions. Attendees will gain insights into how AI transforms campus management from a cost center into a strategic advantage, enabling universities to do more with existing resources.

Primary (and Related) Topic(s): New or Emerging Technologies|CAD|Integrated Workplace Management Systems|Space Information & Management|System/Data Integration|Utilities

Using AI to Optimize CAD Workflows and Space Dashboard Generation

Christine Syvertson, University of Pittsburgh

8/4/2026, 1:45:00 PM

Description: The University of Pittsburgh has started to provide new AI tools for use by the campus community, most recently an enterprise contract with Claude. The Technical Services group has been starting to use Claude to generate code to analyze drawing quality, implement drawing standardization, and auto-create and combine PDF floor plans. Additionally, the team has been importing data into Claude for ad-hoc analysis and dashboarding for space planning purposes.

Primary (and Related) Topic(s): Space Information & Management|CAD

Wi-Fi Powered Space Utilization for Facilities and Capital Planning

Steven Guenther, Carnegie Mellon University & Jeremy Smith, Carnegie Mellon University & James Ireland, CampusIQ

8/5/2026, 5:00:00 PM

Description: In this session, Carnegie Mellon University and CampusIQ will demonstrate how leveraging existing campus network infrastructure can deliver reliable, real-time occupancy and utilization insights—without relying on surveys, manual counts, sensor deployments, or major technology overhauls. Attendees will learn from Carnegie Mellon's experience in a five-building pilot using Wi-Fi network data to extract real-time utilization insights to quantify how spaces are actually used.

Primary (and Related) Topic(s): |Integrated Workplace Management Systems|Space Information & Management|System/Data Integration|Utilities

Working with Workday: Bridging the Gap Between HR, Finance, and Facilities

Jennifer McCarthy, University of Nevada, Las Vegas & Bridget Saul, University of Nevada, Las Vegas

8/4/2026, 1:45:00 PM

Description: Is your campus transitioning to Workday? While it's a powerhouse for HCM and Finance, mapping "Institutional Logic" to "Physical Reality" can be a challenge. This Watercooler is a dedicated space for CFTA members to talk shop about the realities of a Workday implementation. We'll discuss the nuances of Location vs. Work Space, organizational structure, the technical hurdles of integrations, and how to maintain data integrity when your asset hierarchy meets a new ERP.

Primary (and Related) Topic(s): System/Data Integration|Integrated Workplace Management Systems|Space Information & Management
