To All Members of the Greater Orlando Chapter...!

We are very pleased to announce that our Greater Orlando Chapter made history this week by successfully executing the first ever 'The Facilithon' competition in the state of Florida.

After a year of preparation and support by the GOC board, this inaugural 'The Facilithon 2017' competition wrapped up Wednesday, April 26th, totaling 17 student participants, a 70% increase beyond our chapter's strategic goal. Additionally, by our attendance and participation in the four days (April 23-26) of the SKillsUSA Florida Conference's competitions, we indoctrinated over 1000 students including Instructors and Teachers in Facility Management...which is at the base of our Chapter's education mission and goals...a most dramatic statistic indeed...!

Thanks to the generosity of our chapter's board of directors, we were approved to award modest tuition Scholarships to the top three finishers as well as IFMA Memberships to the first ten entrants into our 'The Facilithon' contest. The following students were the award recipients:

1st Place - Bennett McClenny, Cypress Bay High School, Ft Lauderdale/Weston, FL
2nd Place - Ryan Quinn, Cypress Bay High School, Ft Lauderdale/Weston, FL
3rd Place - Na-Teria Mosely, Orange Technical College, Winter Park Campus

It has been very rewarding to work with these bright young people who are indeed the future leaders of our communities. Often were comments by Instructors and Advisors expressing their appreciation and commendation to us for the cerebral content of the contest which not only allowed for a divergence during non-competition time but also brought the students and instructors in touch with a career path heretofore unknown to them.

To their due credit, "The Facilithon" competition was conceive, established and successfully vetted through the SKillsUSA organization for the past three years by the 'FM Pipeline'. These dedicated individuals are a collaborative team of FM supporters involved through the Madison Wisconsin and several other IFMA chapters. Having gained the attention of the IFMA Foundation, this initiative is
being considered for execution in several other IFMA chapters in the US... and as an international organization perhaps the world...!

I heartily applaud IFMA and its Greater Orlando Chapter (GOC) for its insightful support of this experimental but well-framed and important initiative. Their desire and keen sense of opportunity to expand the exposure of our often unsung FM industry demonstrates their strong leadership role for our FM industry.

The GOC is only one of four current IFMA chapters in the state of Florida. Therefore, IFMA's GOC and the FM Pipeline encourage the other three Florida chapters to join in this important and rewarding effort by selecting one or two, motivated but otherwise uncommitted, individuals from within the respective chapters. They should be ones who intrinsically care about the future of our community's young people in addition to the success of our FM industry, to reach out and get involved.

I have been particularly pleased and honored to represent the IFMA GOC in this decent and worthwhile endeavor...!

Tarzan Frazier, CFM