



ASHRAE Fellows

It is amazing that in the history of the Central Oklahoma Chapter, we only have ten members who have ever reached the grade of ASHRAE Fellow! This shows just how rare and special this honor is. The Central Oklahoma Chapter's all-time list of ASHRAE Fellows are: Bill Collins, Jr. (1966), Wally Frankfurt (1977), Harry Rountree (1984), Faye McQuiston (1986), Louis Nettleship (1987), Tino Mendez (1995), Jeff Spitler (2005), Dan Fisher (2009), John Harrod (2016), and Roy Crawford (2025). Today, only three of these ten Fellows are still living, but all have left a lasting legacy of excellence and leadership that continues to inspire chapter members who knew them.

Of all the membership levels ASHRAE offers, the grade of "Fellow" is one of the highest honors. It recognizes people who have made outstanding contributions to the built environment and shown strong leadership and technical skill in their field. The Fellow grade was created to honor members whose work has made a significant contribution to the HVAC&R industry. Before this, ASHRAE mainly gave out awards to recognize service and achievement. The Fellow grade became a special way to recognize people who have pushed the industry forward through new research, education, design, and innovation. Over time, this honor has come to represent a career of excellence and dedication to improving buildings and the environment.

It's important to understand that the ASHRAE Fellow grade is not based on volunteer work done within the Society – whether at the chapter, regional, or society level. Instead, it is awarded for professional accomplishments in the HVAC&R industry itself. This can include developing new technologies, publishing research, earning patents, or leading major projects that improve building performance, the indoor environment, energy conservation, and the like. Although it is a requirement to have been a full-grade ASHRAE Member in good standing for at least ten years, the grade of Fellow recognizes what they've achieved in their professional careers, not within ASHRAE service.

Becoming an ASHRAE Fellow is a great honor. It shows that a person's work has helped shape the industry on a large scale. Fellows are often experts in engineering, research, design, or education, and they help guide and mentor others in the profession. Knowing all this, there might be a perception that the grade of Fellow is something too high or too hard to achieve. Please don't dismiss your chances before you even give yourself a chance! The twist to this, however, is that you can't apply on your own; instead, you must be nominated by another member who knows your work well. The nomination must include details of your industry achievements, include letters of professional reference, and include at least one letter of recommendation from a current ASHRAE Fellow. The ASHRAE Society Honors and Awards Committee reviews each nomination carefully before the Board of Directors makes the final decision.

Members who want to learn more about what it takes to become a Fellow are encouraged to contact John Harrod, Fellow ASHRAE, for advice and guidance on how to work toward this distinguished honor.

Dusty Stoabs, PE

ASHRAE Central Oklahoma Chapter Historian



www.ashraecok.org

October 17, 2025