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# President's Message

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## Reenergized, ready for spring, and many thanks

**Wow!** What a Conference and Trade Show we had in San Antonio. Even another ice storm couldn't detract from the high quality education, great tour sites, full and lively trade show, fantastic keynote speaker and exciting PBS video. Dr. Rick Rigsby challenged each of us to make an impact, not just at our place of work but in our everyday lives. The PBS video highlighted our commitment and professionalism to doing just that. Add to the mix seeing old friends, meeting new friends and sharing our professionalism surely brings energy to ourselves and what we do.

You also could not help being excited seeing the numerous first-time attendees, new members and students who were present. Let's not forget that one of our Founders and STMA's first President, Dick Ericson, also joined us. What an honor. I hope you enjoyed your Conference experience, and you are as energized and excited as I am about the upcoming year. Keeping this energy and focus on the upcoming spring sports season is easier to do during the latest blizzard, which dropped another 12 inches of snow on our athletic fields here in Massachusetts.

As always I am sure there are some things we can do better. Please look for the electronic Conference survey. It was through this survey that some of the positive changes to this year's Conference were made. We do listen! We find your input valuable and will use it to plan the 2015 Conference in Denver. If you did not make it to Conference or want to look back on something you missed, or something you want to use at your facilities, check STMA's educational resources for Conference audio and video availability. Conference is a valuable benefit of membership.

Your Conference committees do a great job in finding that one thing that appeals to each member—whether an educational topic, quality speaker, interesting facility to tour or varied networking opportunities. Please join me in a big THANK YOU to the Conference Committees and Staff for their work to bring you the type of conference you deserve as a member. Also, congratulations to our award winners, new CSFMs and new chapter (Indiana). We will be starting the 2014 committee work very soon. Committees and chapters are the lifeblood of an organization. We have had great committee work last year with strides made in the environmental arena, membership and international outreach to name a few. Thank you to all those who volunteered to serve the profession. The coming year will be even more exciting for committee work.

As I gaze out at our snow-covered athletic fields knowing that more snow is forecasted and knowing that the high school athletes can begin outdoor practice on March 17, I am ready for spring. The planning is done. The crews are ready. Communication and trust in our professionalism will be key to starting the spring season off right. I am reenergized and thankful to be part of a profession and an association that allows me to make an impact. ■