**Letter to the Membership:**

Hello, my name is Michael Roberts and I am a candidate for ASHE President Elect. I am honored and humbled to be considered, especially knowing the talented professionals who have previously been President.

ASHE is the largest association devoted optimizing the healthcare’s physical facilities, is considered a trusted partner and has consistently been the national leader in the field of healthcare engineering. It has a great tradition of responding to the needs of the members. The President plays a vital role in furthering the mission, vision, and strategic goals and in communicating with the membership. As President I would be dedicated to this.

This year has brought new challenges and opportunities to operating and maintaining our healthcare facilities. Everything from the facility aspect has been challenged, from floor layouts to the infrastructure, in ways they haven’t before. Our membership has been truly innovative in ways to best protect our staff and patients within the buildings we occupy. I have attended chapter meetings and listened to the experiences our membership is having and we truly have the best talent working in healthcare. The experiences that we have had must be documented and learned from to inform our codes and design standards. The need for flexibility within our buildings and infrastructure is a must and best practices need to be developed.

ASHE’s advocacy program needs to continue to be a priority and streamlining and coordination of the many different governing bodies needs to continue to be a priority. The experiences of 2020 should be incorporated and flexibility, where appropriate, should be included. ASHE’s collaboration with the many codes and standards groups should be continued.

ASHE’s support at the chapter level should be strengthened. As budgets are cut and social distancing is preventing face-to-face conferences, cost efficient and informative, interactive ways need to be developed to engage our membership. ASHE’s experience with online and virtual education seminars can be a resource for our chapters.

I am very fortunate to have spent most of the last twenty-seven years working for diverse healthcare systems. I found my professional passion in creating and maintaining safe, healing environments for healthcare. My experience includes responding to many different challenges to the healthcare physical environments. This experience has
included stand-alone hospitals and small and large healthcare systems. I also have a wealth of experience from outside of healthcare which brings more perspective to the challenges we face. This experience will help me further the ASHE goals in all areas and relate to the full and associate membership. I am a registered professional engineer, received the designated of SASHE and have the Certified Healthcare Facility Managers (CHFM) certification.

I am currently serving a second term as the ASHE Region 3 board member, am a member of the AHA Certification Advisory Council and have been co-chair of the Sustainability Committee. I am North Carolina Healthcare Engineers Association’s Past President, was a member of the NCHEA Board of Directors for seven years and was their first Sustainability Liaison to ASHE. I am also a member of ASHRAE.

As ASHE President I would lead the Board to:

- Further our professional reputation in the C-suite through concerted efforts working with AHA
- Champion operational excellence developing realistic maintenance strategies and promoting efficient systems that are flexible to handle different patient populations
- Work to ensure lessons learned from 2020 are incorporated into the planning, design, construction and operations of healthcare facilities and advocate that code changes are based on good science and informed by national experts
- Promote succession planning and engagement of our young professionals
- Work to support our state chapters in providing excellent value

I believe one of the greatest things we can do is to serve others – our families, our communities, our co-workers, our professional organizations and to our society. I want to give back to the membership and organization of ASHE, an organization that has not only helped me survive the challenges of healthcare facility engineering but succeed. ASHE has educated and assisted me, kept me current about new trends in facility management and supported me to face forward and contribute to the positive changes in our industry and our environment.

It is my goal to see that ASHE continues to be the most respected national resource for industry expertise and standards.

Most importantly, I will support my fellow members to make a day-to-day impact, not only in our workplaces, but also in the lives of our families and our communities.

Today, I ask for your vote as ASHE President Elect.
Thank you,

Michael