



## Greetings from CentralCHRIE!

Welcome to the 2025–2026 academic year! My name is **Ajai Ammachathram**, and I am honored to serve as the **President of the CentralCHRIE Federation** for this term. As the **Program Director and Associate Professor** in the Hospitality Program at the **University of Nebraska–Lincoln**, I am deeply committed to advancing

hospitality and tourism education through a collaborative approach, innovative teaching, and active engagement with both academic and industry communities.

I am especially excited to begin this new chapter with such a passionate and dedicated group of professionals.

## Looking Ahead: Key Initiatives and Events

### CentralCHRIE Conference 2025

We are pleased to announce that our annual conference will take place on **October 17–18, 2025**, at the **University of Nebraska–Lincoln**. This year’s theme, *“Reimagining Hospitality Education for Well-being, Meaning, and a Sustainable Future,”* reflects our shared commitment to shaping a more thoughtful and impactful future for our field.

### ZoomIn! Events

Our popular ZoomIn! series will continue on a **bi-monthly basis**, scheduled for the **fourth Friday of each month at 1:00 PM CST**. We encourage all members to participate and contribute to these engaging discussions.

We are also rolling out new **membership initiatives** to increase engagement across institutions and support emerging scholars. Our goals for the year ahead include strengthening academic collaborations, promoting interdisciplinary research, and enhancing student involvement in ICHRIE activities. As we focus on productivity, education, networking, research, and professional development, let’s also make space for something equally important—**fun!**

Here’s to a meaningful, collaborative, and joy-filled academic year ahead. I look forward to connecting with many of you and working together to elevate our industry and profession!