

# IAAPA Institute for Attractions Managers

## Teaching Faculty – Biography



### **DOUG AKERS** **FACILITY OPERATIONS AND SAFETY**



#### **Sr. Director, Park Operations, Universal Studios Beijing**

Doug began his career at Busch Gardens Tampa in 1998, working through a variety of leadership roles and positions within the Merchandise Department, including VIP Tours, Vending, Revenue Auditing, Stroller Rental, and general retail operations.

Following several years working with Busch Gardens, Doug joined Universal Orlando in 2004, serving management roles in both the Attractions Operations department as well as Parking & Transportation.

In 2007 Doug was part of the opening management team for Hard Rock Park, running the day to day operations as the Attractions Manager and working with a highly talented team to bring to life the park where “rock comes to play”.

Doug joined Resorts World Sentosa in 2009 as part of its pre-opening and opening management team for Universal Studios Singapore, supporting the Attractions Operations department. Following the opening of the theme park and stabilization of operation, Doug had the opportunity to pre-open and launch the new Marine Life Park facility featuring Adventure Cove Waterpark, Dolphin Island, and S.E.A. Aquarium. Doug has the opportunity to cross multiple departments in a variety of leadership roles during his time at Resorts World Sentosa including all Operations divisions, Business Development, and Food & Beverage.

While maintaining an active career within the theme park and attraction industry, Doug is also a graduate of the University of Central Florida – Rosen College of Hospitality Management with a Bachelor’s of Science in Hospitality, focusing on theme park and attraction management.

Doug has also worked with AIMS and IAAPA in the role of show ambassadors for several expos both IAAPA Expo and IAAPA Asia Expo and is an active member of IAAPA while previously sitting on the Young Professional committee, Asian Advisory Committee, Asia-Pacific Education Committee, and former Chair of Asia-Pacific Membership Committee.