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**Trane and New Mexico Highlands University Leaders Discuss Benefits of High Performance Buildings at AASHE**

*- Trane launching higher education version of successful BTU Crew™ energy efficiency curriculum at conference -*

**Pittsburgh, Pa.** (Oct. 10, 2011) — Attendees at the annual conference of the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE) will learn how to use high performance building concepts at their schools from leaders at Trane, a leading global provider of indoor comfort systems and services and a brand of Ingersoll Rand.

Trane leaders will educate attendees about how to build stakeholder support for high performance buildings and will launch a higher education version of their successful K-12 BTU Crew energy efficiency curriculum.

High performance buildings have become increasingly important on college campuses. Two-thirds of college students report that they consider a college's environmental record before enrolling, according to a recent Princeton Review study.

High performance buildings also make good economic sense. The U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) reports that high performance buildings usually provide lifecycle energy and operational savings of 20 to 50 percent a year.

**New Mexico Highlands University Discusses Benefits of High Performance Buildings**

**Bill Harris, vice president of education markets for Trane**, and Jorden Grimm, capital projects operations manager at New Mexico Highlands University (NMHU) will discuss how leaders at the school successfully gained stakeholder support to install high efficiency infrastructure systems in a new 70,000 square foot student center scheduled to open in November 2011.

The new student center will feature an energy saving geothermal system. Geothermal systems utilize the earth as a heat sink during cooling season and a heat source during heating season. Because the earth's temperature is more moderate than the outdoor air temperature, the annual energy efficiency of these systems is 10 to 30 percent higher than conventional heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) systems. In many climates they save 25 percent in energy costs compared to an ASHRAE (American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers) 90.1 baseline building.

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## **Trane and NMHU Leaders Discuss Benefits of High Performance Buildings at AASHE – 2**

The new building is slated to achieve Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Silver certification from the USGBC. Attendees will learn about the benefits of high performance buildings and how they can incorporate a similar approach on their own campuses.

The new student center represents initial steps toward transforming the college's facilities into high performance buildings that tie to the school's educational mission.

High performance buildings take a whole building approach to performance while creating spaces that are reliable, safe, healthy and efficient. They meet specific standards for energy and water consumption, system reliability and uptime, environmental compliance, occupant comfort and other factors. All standards are set to deliver established outcomes that help building owners and occupants achieve their business missions.

### **Presentation Details**

Session Title: Student Center Features New High Efficiency Central Geothermal Technology

When: Monday, Oct. 10, 2:50-3:20 p.m.

Room 317 at the Daniel L. Lawrence Convention Center in Pittsburgh, Pa.

Conference website: <http://conf2011.aashe.org>

### **Trane Introduces BTU Crew Energy Efficiency Curriculum for Higher Education**

To respond to the need for energy conservation and sustainability on and off campus, Trane is introducing the BTU Crew energy efficiency curriculum to engage students from all career paths in using their campus as a living energy lab. The higher education curriculum is based on the successful K-12 version of BTU Crew which was introduced in 2008 and continues to be used in multiple school districts nationwide.

Tailored for use in a community college/general education setting, the BTU Crew is a flexible curriculum that can be adapted for use in a wide range of higher education classes or programs. Especially in community colleges today, educators face pressure to meet the needs of a more diverse and rapidly growing population. Community colleges have experienced enrollment increases in eight of the past 10 years and represent 44 percent of all U.S. undergraduates, according to a recent report by the American Association of Community Colleges.

"Conserving energy is a key issue across many professions today, from the architects and design engineers that build efficient sports stadiums to restaurateurs that specialize in sustainable cuisine," said Bill Harris, vice president, education markets for Trane. "The higher education environment creates the perfect opportunity to evaluate how energy will play a role in one's future career as well as the role it plays in our lives today."

Attendees can visit Trane at booth 321 to learn more about the curriculum. More information is also available at [www.trane.com/HigherEducation](http://www.trane.com/HigherEducation).

Trane is a Silver sponsor of the conference and is also a sponsor of the 2011 AASHE Awards, which will be presented at the conference on Oct. 11 at 3 p.m. AASHE annually presents two Campus Sustainability Case Study Awards, one Faculty Sustainability Leadership Award, one Innovation in Green Building Award, one Student Sustainability Leadership Award, and one Student Research on Campus Sustainability Award.

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### **About Harris**

**Bill Harris** serves as vice president, education markets for Trane. Harris is responsible for leading and executing the strategic objectives for K-12 and higher education vertical markets in collaboration with territory vice presidents in North America. Formerly serving as district manager in Connecticut, he has been with Trane since 2000 where he has held various roles with increasing responsibility. Harris received an electronic engineering degree from Pennco Technical Institute and is an active member of his community. He is the vice chair of Northwest Catholic High School's board and serves as board of directors emeritus for the Connecticut Business and Industry Association.

### **About the AASHE 2011 Conference**

The AASHE 2011 conference, "Creating Sustainable Campuses and Communities" will be held Oct. 9-11 in Pittsburgh, Pa. The three-day conference is the largest North American conference focused on sustainability in higher education. It is expected to draw 2,500

participants from over 10 countries to Pittsburgh. The focus of the 2011 conference is creating sustainable campuses and communities and will include community service projects for both conference attendees and Student Summit participants

#### **About Ingersoll Rand**

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