



## News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Students Inspire High Performance Buildings, Taking Extra Credit Work to New Levels**

*- Trane Energy Efficiency Leader Award to recognize district leaders for improvements  
expected to save district \$80,000 a year, cut energy consumption 21 percent -*

**Gypsum, Kan., Oct. 25 2010** – Administrators at Southeast of Saline Unified School District (USD) 306 recently completed building upgrades that they anticipate will reduce energy consumption 21 percent. Students initiated the \$1.4 million improvement effort, which the district expects to save more than \$80,000 a year in energy and operational costs.

The project began in 2009, when a group of 10th- through 12th-grade students in a Leadership 101 class convinced the school board and district administrators that the building retrofits made good financial and environmental sense.

As part of a district master plan, Southeast of Saline district leaders launched a comprehensive plan to create a high performance school building that improves infrastructure, reduces costs and helps connect the school building to district objectives. The plan included improvements to address aging and failing infrastructure systems, increase operational efficiency, improve the learning environment and enhance comfort and security for students, teachers and staff.

Improvements were completed to the more than 151,000-square-foot building that serves all of the district's 700+ students. In recognition of their commitment to improved building performance, Southeast of Saline administrators and students will receive the Trane "Energy Efficiency Leader in Education Award."

Details of the award presentation:

- Keven Ward, education facilities consultant, Trane, will present the award to Dr. Justin Henry, superintendent, and Juanelle Garretson, Leadership 101 instructor, Southeast of Saline USD 306.
- Held at 8:45 a.m. on Oct. 26 as part of an all school assembly at Southeast of Saline USD 306, 5056 E. K-4 Highway, Gypsum, Kan.

"Upgrades to the facility will benefit both student learning and the environment while saving the district money," said Dr. Justin Henry, superintendent of Southeast of Saline USD 306. "Although we cannot measure the health, academic and environmental benefits of these improvements in monetary terms, they represent significant outcomes for this project."

"Thanks to our school administration and board of education, we were able to make our ideas about energy conservation and waste management a reality," said Lindsey Lockhart, a high school junior at Southeast of Saline and a former Leadership 101 class member. "We are showing the future generation of SES students ways that they can be part of the going green movement."

### **District is Improving Learning Environment**

School leaders used a performance contract to pay for the improvements. Performance contracting is part of a facilities improvement impetus advocated by the governor and the state legislature.

A performance contract allows schools to use future energy and operational savings to finance infrastructure improvement projects. It is an option for funding energy-saving improvements in buildings that provides measurable business results. By managing and optimizing energy use, schools can leverage operational savings to support strategic educational objectives.

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### **Customized Solutions Address District Needs**

Before undertaking the improvements, the student leaders conducted a building survey which encouraged Southeast of Saline leaders to authorize Trane to conduct a comprehensive building audit to identify the energy conservation measures that would best meet their needs.

Selected improvements included installing high-efficiency heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems and a digital building control system to enhance indoor air quality, increase ventilation and improve thermal comfort.

The district provided optimal lighting by adding a performance efficient lighting system. To increase safety for students and staff, the district also added internal and external security cameras. The cameras feed into a digital recording system that is integrated with building and access controls.

The existing cooling towers were also renovated to increase thermal comfort in the building, and vestibules were installed at entryways to minimize air infiltration when outside doors are open. To conserve water, they added a variable flow device on the district's domestic water pump.

### **Students in Leadership 101 Class Educating Fifth Grade Students**

In addition to convincing district administrators to go green, students in the Leadership 101 class have been teaching the district's fifth-grade students about high performance buildings with the Trane BTU Crew™ curriculum.

The curriculum is an interactive educational program on energy use and conservation in buildings. It teaches students ways to reduce energy use at school and at home to make a positive contribution to the environment today and encourages students to consider careers in potential science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) where talent is needed.

Offered collaboratively with Trane, a business of Ingersoll Rand, the six-week curriculum was conducted earlier this year over a series of classes in April and May for all fifth-grade students. Part of the curriculum uses the students' own building as a living classroom, comparing energy used by the building before and after improvements.

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#### **About Southeast of Saline**

Southeast of Saline is located outside of Salina, Kan., in Saline County roughly five miles west of Gypsum. It is the mission of Southeast of Saline to help each student develop to his or her fullest potential.

#### **About Trane**

Trane, a business of Ingersoll Rand - the world leader in creating and sustaining safe, comfortable and energy efficient environments, improves the performance of homes and buildings around the world. Trane solutions optimize indoor environments with a broad portfolio of energy efficient heating, ventilating and air conditioning systems, building and contracting services, parts support and advanced controls for homes and commercial buildings. For more information, visit [www.Trane.com](http://www.Trane.com).

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