



January 17, 2023

Honorable Members of the Kansas Legislature,

We write to you in support of increased funding for high-demand Industry-Recognized Certification training for Kansas students and the adult workforce.

[Trane](#), a business of [Trane Technologies](#), is a world leader in creating and sustaining safe, comfortable and energy efficient environments that improve the performance of buildings and homes around the world. We recognize a significant local and national need to advance the development of the skilled workforce essential to the growth of our business and our industry as a whole.

In our industry the workforce shortage has already reached the crisis stage in Kansas and nationally as well. We share the aging/retiring workforce challenge that is common with all industries; but in our industry there are compounding factors that magnify the ever-increasing need for a skilled workforce. These compounding factors include an aging building stock in need of renewal, aging energy grid, strategic focus on energy and energy efficiency, [Industry 4.0](#) driven cyber-physical systems, the Internet of Things (IoT), cloud-based computing, data analytics and cognitive computing resulting in an ever-increasing skills gap and workforce shortage.

Trane continues to make significant investments in STEM and Career and Technical Education in Kansas and nationally, as we share mutual priorities for the development of a highly-skilled 21<sup>st</sup> century workforce with other key stakeholders throughout the country. Our Trane team has demonstrated much of this through our support for KSDE's Kansans CAN School Redesign Project with Trane's *BTU Crew*<sup>™</sup> educational energy programming for middle school and secondary students and our strategic partnership with the Kansas Board of Regents, Washburn Tech, WSU Tech and the [NC3-National Coalition of Certification Centers](#) for secondary/post-secondary students and the adult workforce. The [Trane/NC3 Climate and Energy Control Technologies labs](#) at Washburn Tech, WSU Tech, and DC3 are nationally recognized, state-of-art training centers providing students with Industry Recognized Certifications in high-demand, high-tech, and high-wage Climate and Energy Control Technologies (HVACR) and other energy-efficiency related career fields.

Trane relies upon and partners with universities, community and technical colleges, and high schools to develop and sustain a workforce that can help our business, industry, and supply-chain companies and contractors compete and grow regionally, nationally, and globally. We believe that increasing investment in high-demand Industry-Recognized Certification training will improve our talent pipeline and enable more business growth in Kansas.

Kansas citizens and businesses have a well-established track record of innovation, entrepreneurship and success undergirded by hard work. We are proud to be a part of that legacy and we want our state's economy to flourish for many more generations to come. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Keven R. Ward".

Keven R. Ward  
Strategic Programs Consultant  
Trane, a business of Trane Technologies  
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