

Northeast Community College

Norfolk, Nebraska

Established in 1973, Northeast Community College is a modern, two-year college located at the northeast edge of Norfolk, Nebraska. It serves residents of a 20-county area. Northeast recently built a 67,000 square foot Applied Technology building which includes multipurpose classrooms and labs for hands-on-training to serve over 200 students.



CHALLENGE

- The HVAC lab was housed in a dark basement with dated equipment.
- The outdated lab made recruitment for the HVAC program a challenge.
- “We had an extreme need for technology in order to develop a trained workforce. While we previously focused on residential HVAC, we wanted to expand our program to also include commercial HVAC.” - Lyle Kathol, Dean of Applied Technology Division
- Northeast sought to upgrade its program and create a state-of-the-art teaching lab.



SOLUTION

- Northeast built a 67,000 square foot Applied Technology building containing several programs, including HVAC.
- Northeast joined the National Coalition of Certification Centers (NC3) to develop industry relevant HVAC curriculum and certifications.
- Northeast engaged Trane as a strategic partner to provide project oversight and coordinate activities with subcontractors.
- The new HVAC lab includes high-tech Trane equipment and controls.



RESULTS

- Recruitment efforts have improved.
- Students can now earn industry-recognized certifications and gain the skills needed to advance their careers.
- The equipment and resources in the new lab now match the instructors teaching abilities.
- “The program we offer has received national recognition and is helping to create a pool of qualified workers. Our community has seen the benefits of the new lab, as indicated by their generous financial support.” - Lyle Kathol