

# Wichita Area Technical College

## Wichita, Kansas

Founded in 1965, Wichita Area Technical College (WATC) operates three campuses and offers more than one hundred degree and certificate programs. With quality instructors, talented students, and state-of-the-art technical equipment, the college provides a hands-on learning environment that prepares students for further education and career experiences.



### CHALLENGE

- The technical workforce is aging and demand is high for industry-ready graduates.
- Advanced training was needed to prepare graduates for the growing and changing demands of the industry and incorporate the latest technologies.
- Outdated HVAC equipment in training labs hindered new student recruitment efforts.
- Significant capital was necessary to provide a state-of-the-art teaching lab and mitigate construction costs.



### SOLUTION

- The National Coalition of Certification Centers (NC3) and Trane were called upon to improve HVAC program through curriculum and technology upgrades.
- WATC, Trane, local employers and NC3 formed a public-private partnership to bridge the gap between education and industry workforce needs by elevating training with industry-relevant curriculum.
- Trane provided training labs with advanced, high-efficiency HVAC systems creating an advanced Climate and Energy Control Technologies Lab and working knowledge to instructors to better equip them to teach.



### RESULTS

- Updated training lab features the newest Trane equipment and advanced technologies while enhancing technical training with a rigorous curriculum.
- Faculty now has equipment and resources that better match their teaching abilities.
- Graduates possess the skills, training, and validation required by the industry.
- The lab has helped to boost the school's recruitment efforts, and the administrators now report the HVAC program has a waiting list for admittance.