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**Rock Creek Unified School District 323** **Leaders Expect Infrastructure Upgrades to Save Nearly $154,000 Annually**

***District is receiving the Energy Efficiency Leader Award from Trane***

**St. George, Kan.** (March 12, 2012) – Education leaders at Rock Creek Unified School District (USD) 323 expect recently completed energy efficiency upgrades to save the district nearly $154,000 a year while enhancing the teaching and learning environment.

Leaders anticipate the enhanced learning environment will improve teaching and learning. There is clear evidence that the way schools are built and maintained affects how students and teachers breathe, hear, see and learn, according to a recent report by the Center for Green Schools at the United States Green Building Council and the McGraw-Hill Research Foundation[[1]](#footnote-1).

The improvements, which were completed in August 2011 to reduce energy use while addressing deferred maintenance issues, reflect a district-wide commitment to sustainability and environmental stewardship.

In honor of the district’s commitment to energy and operational efficiency and sustainability, Trane, a leading global provider of indoor comfort systems and services and a brand of Ingersoll Rand, is presenting the district with the “Energy Efficiency Leader Award.”

Details of the award presentation:

* Rock Creek will be recognized at an award presentation on March 14 at 7 p.m. in Rock Creek Junior/Senior high school cafeteria, 9355 Flush Road in St. George, Kan.
* Chad Remboldt, educational facilities consultant for Trane, will present the award to Dr. Darrel Stufflebeam, superintendent of Rock Creek USD 323

“These upgrades make sound economic and environmental sense,” said Stufflebeam. “Even more importantly, they allow us to better educate our students, while providing a positive example of environmental stewardship for the entire community.”

The improvements represent a major step in transforming district facilities into high performance buildings that tie to the schools’ educational mission. High performance buildings take a whole building approach to performance while creating spaces that are reliable, safe, healthy, comfortable and efficient.

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High performance buildings meet specific standards for energy and water consumption, system reliability and uptime, environmental compliance and occupant comfort. All standards are set to deliver established outcomes that help building owners and occupants achieve their business missions.

**Solutions Customized to Meet District Needs**

Prior to selecting the appropriate energy conservation measures for the district, administrators and board of education members directed completion of a formal audit and building assessments. Based on the findings, they selected the energy conservation measures that best met the district’s upgrade needs while improving energy and operational efficiency.

The improvements at Rock Creek USD 323 were funded with a performance contract which allowed the district to use future energy and operational savings to finance infrastructure improvements up front. Performance contracting is a funding option that provides measurable business results to support strategic objectives.

Improvements included lighting upgrades in classrooms and hallways in all district buildings. High efficiency heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) systems were implemented to improve indoor air quality, increase ventilation and provide more comfortable classroom temperatures. Automated controls were installed to maximize efficiency of both the lighting and the HVAC. Plumbing was updated with low-flow fixtures.

Improvements in the Junior/Senior High School building included replacing an end-of-life air-cooled chiller and replacing the original pneumatic controls with a direct digital control system. The new direct digital controls monitor manages all HVAC systems in the building. It allows for uniform temperature control and provides the ability to schedule occupied and unoccupied room temperature set points for energy savings.

At Westmoreland Elementary, the old steam boiler, steam radiators and window air conditioning units were replaced with a high-efficiency variable refrigerant flow system. Each classroom received an indoor heating/cooling unit which provides a quiet, comfortable learning environment. The split system HVAC units in the 1993 classroom additions were replaced with new high efficiency units. A gym ventilation system was added to allow for cooling and ventilating on a mild day. A direct digital control system was installed to control, monitor, and schedule all new and existing HVAC equipment.

Upgrades to the Westmoreland Elementary building also included replacing all windows with double-pane high-efficiency windows and replacing all doors.

Retrofits at St. George Elementary included upgrading the existing HVAC system and its digital controls. Staff training further ensures that the system will run at optimum performance.

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**About Rock Creek USD 323**

Rock Creek USD 323 is located 15 miles from Manhattan, Kan., and Kansas State University. The district covers 230 square miles spanning the entire length of Pottawatomie County. The district is mostly rural and has two communities within its boundaries. The two elementary buildings, pre-kindergarten through sixth grade, are located in St. George and Westmoreland. The Junior/Senior High is located in St. George. The population of the district is largely comprised of ranchers, farmers and agriculture-related employees. The district has an enrollment of approximately 900 students and employs over 70 full- and part-time teachers. Learn more at [www.rockcreekschools.org](http://www.rockcreekschools.org).

**About Ingersoll Rand**

Ingersoll Rand (NYSE:IR) is a world leader in creating and sustaining safe, comfortable and efficient environments in commercial, residential and industrial markets. Our people and our family of brands — including Club Car®, Ingersoll Rand®, Schlage®, Thermo King® and Trane® — work together to enhance the quality and comfort of air in homes and buildings, transport and protect food and perishables, secure homes and commercial properties, and increase industrial productivity and efficiency. 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 control. Ingersoll Rand is a $14 billion global business committed to sustainable business practices within our company and for our customers. For more information, visit [www.ingersollrand.com](http://www.ingersollrand.com).

1. http://mcgraw-hillresearchfoundation.org/2012/02/27/the-impact-of-school-buildings-on-student-health-and-performance/ [↑](#footnote-ref-1)