

## **Dakota County Technical College Receives \$100,000 Grant from Johnson Controls to Train Next Generation of Trade Workforce**

*Johnson Controls Community College Partnership Program invests in local technical college programs to support thriving career paths, spur local economic development and narrow the global skilled labor gap*

**ROSEMOUNT, MINN** (May 4, 2022) – **Dakota County Technical College (DCTC)** will invest in the career pathway for the next generation of building technology innovators. Through a \$100,000 grant from the Johnson Controls Community College Partnership Program, DCTC will expand its associate degree and certificate programs in HVAC. In addition to the initial investment, DCTC is eligible for up to three years of renewed funding, allowing the program to expand and serve future students.

“The ultimate goal for Dakota County Technical College (DCTC) is to expand our current HVAC & Refrigeration space to accommodate the demand for our program, enhance our current efforts to increase diversity in the program, and incorporate additional academic and professional supports for underrepresented students to foster success,” said Kim Shaff, Executive Director of the DCTC Foundation.

Introduced in 2021, the Johnson Controls Community College Partnership Program fund \$15 million over the span of five years to non-profit community colleges throughout North America in support of their HVAC, fire, security and digital academic programs. Funding for each community college differs based on its needs; in general, colleges will use the funding to recruit, support, retain and graduate underserved students who otherwise may not have had the opportunity to pursue higher education.

DCTC plans to expand its current HVAC & Refrigeration space to accommodate the demand for its program, enhance efforts to increase diversity in the program, and incorporate additional academic and professional supports for underrepresented students to foster success.

Local Johnson Controls employees in each market serve as volunteer educators and mentors, providing students with counselling and real-world experiences. The mentoring is directly incorporated into various college programs and provides a pathway for student internships and entry-level opportunities at Johnson Controls.

According to the [U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics](#), nearly eight million skilled-labor jobs were lost from the labor force during the pandemic. About half have been filled, but an estimated four million vacancies remain in industries responsible for more transportation, construction and mechanical needs nationwide. Additionally, the [U.S. Census Bureau estimates](#) that nearly one-fourth of the manufacturing workforce is 55 or older; as they age and retire, there are not enough young people entering the trades to fill their positions. Filling these vacancies to support a healthy industry will take commitment and expertise across generations.

“At Johnson Controls we strive to provide students with appropriate insights, mentorship and knowledge to empower them to move forward with a successful career in infrastructure. In doing so, we will change the trajectory of lives for these students” said Nate Manning, Vice President and President of Building Solutions in North America. “We will continue steering our efforts and initiatives towards preparing the next generation for a rewarding and sustainable career path that will have a lasting impact on the future of green buildings.

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**About Johnson Controls**

At Johnson Controls (NYSE:JCI), we transform the environments where people live, work, learn and play. As the global leader in smart, healthy and sustainable buildings, our mission is to reimagine the performance of buildings to serve people, places and the planet. Building on a proud history of more than 135 years of innovation, we deliver the blueprint of the future for industries such as healthcare, schools, data centers, airports, stadiums, manufacturing and beyond through OpenBlue, our comprehensive digital offering. Today, with a global team of 100,000 experts in more than 150 countries, Johnson Controls offers the world's largest portfolio of building technology and software as well as service solutions from some of the most trusted names in the industry. Visit [www.johnsoncontrols.com](http://www.johnsoncontrols.com) for more information and follow @Johnson Controls on social platforms.

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