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ASHE Attendees Gain Strategies for Rural Healthcare Expansion and Excellence in Facilities Management from Trane

Atlanta, July 22, 2013 — The Center for Healthcare Design reports that hundreds of studies directly connect the physical environment of the hospital with quality of care, patient and staff satisfaction, productivity, and overall financial performance.

Representatives of Trane, a leading global provider of indoor comfort solutions and services and a brand of Ingersoll Rand, and Hardin Medical Center will share their insights about facilities management at the annual conference of the American Society for Healthcare Engineering (ASHE) of the American Hospital, held in Atlanta, July 21-24.

Iona Canada, director of strategic relations for the global Trane Healthcare Practice, will join a panel discussion about excellence in facilities management. Cincinnati Children's Hospital received ASHE's 2012 Excellence in Facilities Management Award, which Trane co-sponsored, in recognition of its patient and employee safety program, Daily Operations Brief.

The program, which expanded its operations to seven days a week and 365 days a year, addresses unexpected outcomes that have occurred over the previous 24 hours, predicts issues or events that may adversely affect operations, and encourages discussion to mitigate potential issues. Panelists will include representatives of the Cincinnati Children's facilities department who will discuss procedures the organization developed to enhance communication of issues and concerns related to hospital safety and flow.

About the Presentation: Excellence in Facility Management

Date/Time: Monday, July 22, 9:45-10:45 a.m.

Location: Room C211/213, Georgia World Congress Center, 285 Andrew Young International Blvd. NW, Atlanta, GA 30313

Conference website: <http://www.ashe.org/annual/>

Laura Rygielski-Preston, FACHE, vice president of the global Trane Healthcare Practice, and Charlotte Burns, FACHE, formerly chief executive officer of Hardin Medical Center and currently vice president of network affiliations for HCA TriStar Health, will discuss best practices for improving infrastructure in rural hospitals at the conference.

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Attendees will learn how Hardin Medical Center implemented energy-saving infrastructure improvements with minimal capital investment, leveraging clinical outcomes and energy savings into its funding justification to meet return-on-investment criteria to fund the project.

About the Presentation: Maximizing Your Rural Hospital's Place in the Community

Date/Time: Tuesday, July 23, 3:15 – 4:30 p.m.

Location: Room C207, Georgia World Congress Center, 285 Andrew Young International Blvd. NW, Atlanta, GA 30313

Conference website: <http://www.ashe.org/annual/>

About the ASHE Annual Conference

The 50th ASHE Annual Conference & Technical Exhibition, held in Atlanta on July 21-24, is an annual industry event for health care facility management professionals. The conference provides opportunities for education, networking and advancement for healthcare facility professionals, including: facility managers and engineers, plant operations managers, vice presidents of support services, planning, design and construction professionals, health care safety and security officers and managers, maintenance managers, health care contractors and consultants. This year's conference features 40 concurrent peer-reviewed sessions. ASHE is a personal membership group of the American Hospital Association. More than 11,000 members count ASHE as a key source of professional development, industry information, and advocacy, including representation on key issues that affect their work in the physical health care environment. For more information about ASHE, contact 312-422-3800 or visit www.ashe.org.

About the Speakers

Iona Canada is director of strategic relations for the global Trane Healthcare Practice. She has spent over 25 years serving the healthcare facilities industry. At Trane, she is responsible for customer satisfaction, market growth and expansion of offerings to meet the evolving needs of the healthcare industry. She is a member of ACHE (American College of Healthcare Executives) and ASHE (American Society of Healthcare Engineering). Canada serves on the Federation of American Hospitals Advisory Board and was the first chair from the supplier community. She holds a degree in business administration from Kaskaskia College.

Laura Rygielski-Preston, FACHE, is vice president of the global Trane Healthcare Practice. She is responsible for customer satisfaction, market growth and expansion of offerings to meet the evolving needs of the healthcare industry. She is a fellow of ACHE and is board certified in healthcare management. Rygielski-Preston has a bachelor's degree in finance from the University of Notre Dame.

Charlotte Burns, vice president of network affiliations for HCA TriStar Health and formerly chief executive officer of Hardin Medical Center in Savannah, Tenn., has more than 30 years of healthcare experience. Burns is an outspoken advocate for healthcare needs in Tennessee, placing an emphasis on the importance of legislative changes to the well-being of healthcare.

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