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## **Fitzgerald High School Receives \$10,000 Grant from Ingersoll Rand Foundation “Real Tools for Schools” Program For Automotive Vocational Schools**

*Grant funding to improve classrooms and upgrade equipment for students in automotive technology programs*

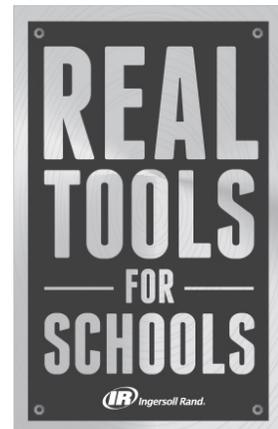
**Warren, Mich., May 31, 2016** – [Ingersoll Rand](#), a global leader in power tools and the Official Power Tools of NASCAR®, awarded Fitzgerald High School with a \$10,000 grant to fund improvements to its automotive vocational program. As a Real Tools for Schools grant recipient, Fitzgerald High School will use the funds for improvements to the automotive classrooms and courses with updated equipment, supplies, instructor training and curricula.

Since 2014, there has been a decline in the enrollment in vocational automotive programs nationwide due to lack of teachers, restricted school budgets, high operational costs and other factors<sup>1</sup>. Yet, automotive technology is becoming increasingly sophisticated, and employers prefer to hire automotive technicians and mechanics who have completed a formal training program<sup>2</sup>.

“These students are the future of the automotive technology industry. Ingersoll Rand is proud to support technical education for students that prepares them for success and enhances job readiness,” says Donny Simmons, president of Ingersoll Rand Power Tools.

The Ingersoll Rand Real Tools for Schools program is sponsored by the Ingersoll Rand Foundation and the company’s Power Tools business to enhance education for students in automotive technology programs. The program provides grants of up to \$10,000 per school and has awarded a total of \$120,000 to schools across the country so far. In addition to the grants, Ingersoll Rand Power Tools employees are partnering with participating high schools to deliver seminars, hands-on training and learning enrichment experiences for students enrolled in automotive technician programs.

Students and teachers are also eligible for discounts to purchase Ingersoll Rand power



<sup>1</sup> Alexandra Pannoni, “Vocational High School Programs an Option for Teens,” *U.S. News & World Report*, October 20, 2014

<sup>2</sup> “Automotive Service Technicians and Mechanics,” Bureau of Labor and Statistics, accessed October 30, 2015, <http://www.bls.gov/ooh/installation-maintenance-and-repair/automotive-service-technicians-and-mechanics.htm>.



tools.

For more information about the Real Tools For Schools grant visit [www.ingersollrandproducts.com/RealtoolsRealSchools/](http://www.ingersollrandproducts.com/RealtoolsRealSchools/).

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### **About Fitzgerald High School**

Fitzgerald High School is enriched in diversity and strives to provide students with a high-tech and rigorous education to prepare students for both college and the real world. Fitzgerald High School takes pride in the reputation it has for establishing programs, which reach beyond the basic educational needs of youth. Through collaboration, strategic alliances and partnering, Fitzgerald High School provides support systems necessary to ensure student success. In early 2000, Fitzgerald Public Schools built a state of the art Automotive Technology Center which expanded the high school's vocational education program and lead to the formation of school to work apprenticeship training programs. Through the decades the district has been a proven leader in developing innovative programs that prepare students to help drive America's success and vitality. From the expansion of CTE programs to dual enrollment opportunities Fitzgerald empowers youth to reach their full potential and establish economic independence. For more information, visit [www.fitz.k12.mi.us](http://www.fitz.k12.mi.us) or [www.ingersollrandproducts.com](http://www.ingersollrandproducts.com).

### **About Ingersoll Rand**

Ingersoll Rand (NYSE:IR) advances the quality of life by creating comfortable, sustainable and efficient environments. Our people and our family of brands—including [Club Car®](#), [Ingersoll Rand®](#), [Thermo King®](#) and [Trane®](#)—work together to enhance the quality and comfort of air in homes and buildings; transport and protect food and perishables; and increase industrial productivity and efficiency. We are a \$13 billion global business committed to a world of sustainable progress and enduring results. Ingersoll Rand products range from complete compressed air and gas systems and services, to power tools, material handling and fluid management systems. The diverse and innovative products, services and solutions enhance our customers' energy efficiency, productivity and operations. For more information, visit [www.ingersollrand.com](http://www.ingersollrand.com) or [www.ingersollrandproducts.com](http://www.ingersollrandproducts.com).

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