



For further information, please contact:
Connie Hanson, SSA Public Relations
602.956.6776

The Refrigeration School, Inc. Company Backgrounder

The Refrigeration School, Inc. (RSI) is a leader in technical education, and provides training for students seeking professional careers as heating, ventilation, air conditioning, refrigeration, and electrical technicians as well as maintenance engineers. RSI refers to the broad array of training specialties with the acronym HVACRE. As the fourth largest single source of HVACRE entry-level graduates in the country, RSI is a leading provider of well-qualified technicians and maintenance engineers in these fields based on its professional and educational standards, professional and community associations, innovative learning programs, and employment services.

RSI's mission is to assist adult learners in development of the skills and knowledge that support their personal goals for employment and professional growth in the HVACRE technologies fields. The school offers specialized programs, combining academic work with comprehensive hands-on training. Four programs are offered, which average three to 20 months in duration:

- Associate of Occupational Studies in Mechanical Engineering
- Electro-Mechanical Technologies
- Refrigeration, Air Conditioning and Heating Technologies
- Electrical Technologies

RSI, first known as the Modern School of Refrigeration, was founded in Phoenix, Ariz. in 1965 by Edwin Loney Sr. and his wife Ola Lee to meet the growing need for highly trained air conditioning and refrigeration technicians. Edwin Sr. was a refrigeration technician himself. The institution changed its name to The Refrigeration School, Inc. in June 1970 and relocated to its current 26,000-square-foot facility inside the Gateway Corridor of Phoenix in 1982.

Electrical Technologies and Electro-Mechanical Technologies courses were added in 1986 and 1987 respectively, in response to the growing demand for entry-level electricians and facility maintenance technicians. In 1992, RSI developed the Associate of Occupational Studies degree program in Mechanical Maintenance Engineering. RSI has an agreement of articulation with the University of Phoenix, allowing graduates to enhance their career opportunities through a seamless baccalaureate education experience.

In 2005, RSI was chosen as the apprenticeship trainer for Palo Verde Nuclear Generating Station. The school is authorized as a certificate test site by the Environmental Protection Agency for the Recycling of Chloroflourocarbons in accordance with the Clean Air Act of 1992.

Graduating up to 600 technicians each year, RSI maintains collaborative relationships with organizations that foster graduate placement, advanced apprenticeship placement and customized training. Employment rates for available graduates seeking work have ranged between 85 and 95 percent year round since the early 1990's.

The school employs over 50 faculty and staff, and has been family-owned and operated for more than four decades. Liz Cline, the daughter of Edwin and Ola Lee Loney, and her husband Jon Cline are now co-owners of the school. Both are closely involved in the day-to-day operations. Liz serves as both president and director, and Jon is vice-president and director of training and industry.

RSI is accredited by the Accrediting Commission of Career Schools and Colleges of Technology (ACCST) The ACCST is a nationally recognized accrediting agency by the U.S. Department of Education. The school is licensed by the Arizona State Board for Private Postsecondary Education.

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