



STUDENT ACTIVATION | GRADE RANGE: 6–8

## Director of Innovation

At Trane Technologies, teams of people around the globe create products and services that make buildings and homes more comfortable and energy efficient. They also create climate-controlled products to move refrigerated foods, medicines, and other perishable things around the world safely and in an environmentally friendly way. The **Director of Innovation** at Trane Technologies works with a variety of teams and departments to identify new opportunities, generate ideas, and implement new products and services.

### DIRECTOR OF INNOVATION<sup>1</sup>

**Directors of Innovation** lead teams of professionals who come up with ideas themselves or bring ideas in from outside the organization. They implement those ideas to improve the effectiveness of an organization's products and services, which helps a company's efficiency, productivity, and competitiveness. They can be involved in multiple aspects of the company, such as project management, product development, finance, marketing, and establishing a culture of innovation.

### IS BECOMING A DIRECTOR OF INNOVATION A GOOD CAREER FOR ME?

| Me   | Director of Innovation   |
|--|--|
| I am interested in school subjects like math and technology. | Directors of Innovation study math, computer science, and business in college.   |
| I am creative and good at solving problems.                  | Directors of Innovation are extremely creative and are innovative problem solvers.   |
| I like looking for ways to make things better.               | Directors of Innovation identify new ideas and opportunities to help improve a company's efficiency, productivity, effectiveness, and competitiveness. |
| I enjoy explaining things. I like working in groups.         | Directors of Innovation are strong communicators with excellent leadership skills.   |

<sup>1</sup> <https://bit.ly/3C2JIGZ>

| How does this career help me?   | How does this career help the world?  |
|---|---|
| <p>Every time your family uses a new or more efficient product, it is benefitting from the work of a director of innovation. These professionals provide a faster introduction of new or improved products.</p> | <p>Progress achieved by Directors of Innovation can greatly improve modern medicine, environmental sustainability, supply chain management, product safety, and more!</p> |

| What are some similar careers?  |
|---|
| <p><b>Product Managers</b> are responsible for the development of products. Practicing product management means being responsible for the processes behind creating a product, determining its functional requirements, and managing its release.</p> <p><b>Creative Directors</b> determine the creative vision behind a brand, product, or project.</p> |

Here are ways to practice the skills to be a successful **Director of Innovation**:

- Consider taking an elective or a class at a local community college to learn more about computer science or business management.
- Analyze a routine in your family home. What steps could be improved or deleted? Does something need to be added? Try your new approach and then meet with your team (aka, your family) to analyze and determine the best process.
- Meet with your guidance counselor to organize your class schedule to allow for you to take advanced mathematics and computer science courses.