



KitchenAid Division

1701 KITCHENAID WAY, GREENVILLE, OHIO 45331 • AREA CODE 937-548-4126

October 24, 2013

To Whom It May Concern:

The proposed project intends to add an advanced manufacturing program and center to the Greenville Career Tech Center that will be open to all Darke County Juniors and Seniors with direct links to both higher educational options as well as local industry. This project addresses the primary problem that many Darke County high school students are deterred from learning a skill that would assist them in earning a sustainable wage after graduation due to the distance between their home school and the serving vocational school. This distance is over 40 miles one-way for some students residing in northern Darke County.

The expansion of the career technical building will allow for the addition of numerous vocational options with direct connections to local industry creating a local, affordable school-to-work program. These programs would also satisfy the secondary problem to be addressed by this project which is heard from area manufacturers and specified in the 2011 Manufacturing Institute Skills Gap Report, "shortages in skilled production jobs....are taking their toll on manufacturers' ability to expand and maintain operations, drive innovation, and improve productivity". Having a local training program to address this shortage, would create a pipeline of skilled workers directly from high school to local manufacturers as well as a pipeline from high school to higher education to obtain managerial credentials required by local manufacturers. By integrating the Darke County Economic Development agency, local industry, K-12 education, and higher education, the partners expect to create an on-going system for leveraging resources and delivering training that is driven by the skill demands of local industry.

Currently students in the Darke County local schools who want to attend a vocational school, travel to the Miami Valley Career Technical Center (MVCTC) in Clayton, Ohio. While the MVCTC has a reputation for high quality programs, it is located up to 40 miles away for the students coming from districts in the northern part of the County putting students on the school bus for up to two hours daily. This is a costly option for local school districts with both the loss of state foundation money to the MVCTC, as well as travel expenses for the



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students. Secondly, because the MVCTC is a complete all day program, students attending the MVCTC are completely isolated from their home districts. Opening up options for vocational training in closer proximity to the home districts, would reduce travel time and give students the option of attending half days at both their home school and the vocational school. This allows them to keep connections with both their home school and their classmates, thus encouraging more students to take advantage of technical educational options. Furthermore, the articulation agreement with the Wright State University Lake Campus creates a blended, hands-on, seamless grade 11 to Bachelor's Degree educational opportunity for students who previously may have not considered themselves as "college material". Through partnerships with local manufacturers, this educational offering would be coupled with on-the-job relevant work experience allowing students to apply the learning, earn funds for college and personal expenses, and obtain practical skills in money management.

To accomplish these strategies, the Greenville Career Technical Center would need additional space and equipment. The grant funds would be used for the following components; estimated 3840 sq. ft. building expansion to existing Career Technical Center, purchase of classroom furniture (tables/chairs), purchase of classroom equipment (projector, smartboards, computers, etc.), purchase of technical equipment to provide hands-on training to students, and development of curriculum meeting standards acceptable to Wright State University.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ken Hossler".

Kenneth R Hossler,
Plant Leader,
Whirlpool Corporation/KitchenAid Division