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October 24, 2013

Straight A Grant Reviewer Team:

We realize that Ohio is still a manufacturing state – and many local manufacturers are looking to our schools to prepare students to enter manufacturing careers. Manufacturing careers provide for a livable wage, but these careers require high skill levels.

The Mahoning and Columbiana Training Association (MCTA) serves as the One-Stop Operator for Columbiana and Mahoning Counties, as well as the Workforce Investment Act administrative and fiscal entity. We are also a partner of the Oh-Penn Pathways to Competitiveness Project that is funded through the USDOL Workforce Innovations Funds Grant. We provide workforce development services such as job search assistance, work readiness workshops, and funds for training to those who are deemed eligible.

On behalf of MCTA, we support the plan of the Mahoning County Career and Technical Center to establish a modern manufacturing laboratory that would cross multiple career paths to further develop and enhance skills in the manufacturing and shale arena. We also support the concept that this laboratory can be used for teacher professional development in manufacturing and shale careers.

In Northeast Ohio and in Mahoning County, there is a documented shortage of manufacturing workers. Given the history of the steel industry, manufacturing is not always viewed as a desirable career path. We hope that the construction of this modern manufacturing laboratory will contribute to an increase in manufacturing as a career choice.

Should you have any questions or need additional information, please feel free to call me at 330.747.5639, ext 6126.

Sincerely,

Bert R. Cene
Director
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