OH-PENN
MANUFACTURING COLLABORATIVE

October 22, 2013

Straight A Grant Reviewer Team:

This will serve as a letter of support for Mahoning County Career & Technical Center's Straight A application titled "Manufacturing/Shale Lab."

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.

On behalf of the Oh-Penn Pathways to Competitiveness Project, we support the plan of the career 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. Additionally, the career center has committed to allow associate schools the opportunity to reserve the lab *and the teacher* to create learning opportunities for as many classes as possible in the associate schools. These include but are not limited to STEM students and Project Lead the Way students. The goal is for as many students as possible to gain hands-on experiences in high-level manufacturing and oil/gas/shale related activities.

We also support the concept that this laboratory can be used for teacher professional development in manufacturing and shale careers. This will allow teachers to bring real-world experiences and relevance into their lessons. MCCTC was a fully engaged partner in our recent Educator in the Manufacturing Workplace program, and we believe that this lab will only strengthen and further enhance the experiences of educators and manufacturers in our region.

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 that will be accessible to so many will contribute to an increase in manufacturing as a career choice.

We are pleased to support this application. If we can be of any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me at (330)965-1787 ext. 7144 or by email at cynthia@onestopohio.org.

Sincerely,

Cynthia E Gr

Cynthia Grier
Oh-Penn Pathways to Competitiveness Ohio Coordinator