



## West Central Job Partnership

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*"Developing Your Workforce"*

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October 24, 2013

Straight A Grant Reviewer Team:

On behalf of West Central Job Partnership (WCJP), 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.

As fiscal agent for the Oh-Penn Pathways to Competitiveness Project that is funded through the USDOL Workforce Innovations Funds Grant, we recognize the documented shortage of manufacturing workers in the five county Oh-Penn Interstate Region. Manufacturing is an economic staple in the Oh-Penn Interstate Region comprised of Columbiana, Mahoning and Trumbull counties in Ohio as well as Lawrence and Mercer Counties in Pennsylvania. Manufacturing employs 11% of the workforce, or approximately 40,000 individuals. It also brings in \$2.66 billion to the local economy alone. Careers in Manufacturing provide family-sustaining wages; in our region, the average experienced manufacturing employee makes \$69,454 a year compared with \$34,725 – the average annual wage for non-manufacturing employees.

Preparing the future workforce for these careers will be critical to the industry in the short and long-term future. 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. 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 724.658.2501.

Sincerely,

Samuel Giannetti  
Executive Director

