

Good Morning. My name is Jo Alice Blondin, and I serve as President of Clark State Community College in Springfield, Beavercreek, and Bellefontaine.

Clark State has been proactive in solidifying its partnerships with four-year universities for 3+1 programs, in which students complete 3 years at Clark State and one year at the university. This cost-saving yet high-quality pathway is a win-win for students and families, saving our students nearly 75% off the cost of a baccalaureate degree. Clark State's tuition is \$4100/30 credit hours, while the average tuition at a public four-year university is more approximately \$15,000. There is language in the Governor's Mid-Biennium Review, which requires the Chancellor, in consultation with OACC and the IUC, to develop a model for piloting 3+1 agreements. Clark State has already developed these pathways with Wittenberg University, Antioch University Midwest, Ohio State, and Franklin University in career-focused degrees such as criminal justice, organizational leadership, and nursing in order to provide our students with a low-cost, quality pathway to a job in our region.

In the Mid-Biennium Review, Governor Kasich has asked for increasing these 3+1 partnerships, as well as the development of specific job-focused baccalaureate degrees that fill critical workforce needs in our communities. Clark State Community College would like to pursue plans to offer the applied baccalaureate degree in Manufacturing Technology Management. This degree is supported by industry, such as Honda, Cascade Manufacturing, McGregor Metalworks, and KTH, and leads to management and supervisory careers as well as higher-level hands-on skills at the top employers in our region.

Since receiving a \$2.5 million Department of Labor TAACCCT grant in 2014, Clark State has kept a laser focus on training in manufacturing, as this industry is key to our region's growth. This degree would complement our existing certificates and associate degrees, and is the next logical step in this career pathway for our students. Clark State students who are on the engineering, management, or manufacturing tracks would be able to continue their education with us and obtain this four-year degree awarded by Clark State Community College.

Over the next decade, nearly 3.5 million manufacturing jobs will be needed, and 2 million are expected to go unfilled due to the skills gap. Moreover, according to a recent report, 80 percent of manufacturers report a moderate or serious shortage of qualified applicants for skilled and highly skilled production positions, specifically in supervisory roles. (National Association of Manufacturers). Additionally, for every \$1.00 spent in manufacturing, another \$1.40 is added to the economy. Manufacturing is critical to Ohio's economic future, and Clark State is well-positioned to assist in its training and educational support at all levels of this vital industry.

Clark State continues to work closely with local industry partners. It will be these industry partners who will help guide us when we are ready to shape the curriculum for this four-year degree in Manufacturing Technology Management. Included with my testimony is a letter from Honda North America, Inc expressing support of Clark State's desire to offer a baccalaureate degree in this program area. Additional approval will then be needed by the Ohio Department of Higher Education and the Higher Learning Commission. I am happy to answer any questions. Thank you.

May 6, 2016

John Carey  
Chancellor  
Ohio Department of Higher Education  
30 E. Broad Street  
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Chancellor Carey:

Honda is pleased to provide this letter of support for **Clark State Community College's** initiative to offer a four-year **baccalaureate degree in Manufacturing Technology Management**. We believe this is an important step in helping provide for the educational needs of our manufacturing workforce now and into the future.

In recent years, Governor Kasich and the Ohio General Assembly have advocated for increased degrees that focus on filling Ohio's in-demand jobs. The demand for skilled workers in the manufacturing sector is growing. We believe it is imperative for our local institutions to continue finding ways to increase affordable access to these types of educational programs and the positions that follow.

As you know, Honda has partnered with a number of Ohio colleges in this effort. Our workforce development initiative, known as EPIC, has made solid progress to create interest in manufacturing careers and provide educational and training opportunities. Clark State Community College is one of our partner colleges, and we have been working closely with college staff to expand our work-study program and provide more students with the needed hands-on experience in their coursework.

In this new proposal of a four-year management degree, Clark State has identified the desire for an advanced level of expertise that will create pathways for students to careers in management and supervisory roles within the manufacturing sector. We applaud the college for innovation and foresight in bringing this program forward.

Honda fully supports this proposal and appreciates your leadership and continued support in educational opportunities for Ohio's manufacturing workforce.

Sincerely,



Scot McLemore  
Unit Manager, Technical Workforce Development  
Honda North America, Inc.

cc: Caroline Ramsey, Honda of America Mfg., Inc.