

Thank you for the opportunity to speak in support of funding for short-term certificate training. I am Dr. Doreen Larson, President of Edison State Community College. A hallmark of my career in higher education has been connecting workforce needs with college programs through flexibility and innovation. You have received some data from Mr. Hershey regarding both the industry need and positive income outcomes associated with short-term certificate programs. Today, I will highlight one such program as an example of an initial success that has potential for substantial expansion given state funding support.

By virtue of a cooperative agreement with Greenville City Schools, Edison State is able to provide three new short-term training opportunities in Darke County. These are Factory Automation Certificate, Equipment Maintenance Certificate and State Tested Nursing Assistant Training. I want to publicly thank Greenville City Schools and Superintendent Shue for sharing their classrooms and equipment with Edison State to eliminate the need for duplicate equipment purchases and classroom expansions. To support these expanded operations in Darke County, Edison State has added two full-time faculty positions to the campus and two part-time faculty positions along with new offices and upgraded facilities.

A good example of needed funding for short-term training is the ability to offer a one-semester **Factory Automation Certificate** for entry-level manufacturing positions. At the request of manufacturers in Darke and surrounding counties, Edison State began offering a **certificate in Factory Automation** in Fall 2016. This is a 12 credit hour program providing basic Automation skills. Courses include Hydraulics & Pneumatics,

Industrial Controls, Programmable Logic Controllers, Servo Systems and Robotics. This certificate was designed at the request of regional manufacturers who also advised on the curriculum. The total cost of the program is \$3,000 and it is not eligible for financial aid. Program completers are not reflected in any Performance Funding measures at this time. The program is high cost to Edison State because of limited lab stations (8) and required advanced training for instructors. We have filled two lab sections per semester using shared instructors from the Piqua campus. If not for the shared use of the Greenville facility and shared instruction costs, Edison state would not be able to offer this certificate, given the current absence of funds for students or the institution.

Upon completion of the Factory Automation certificate, students can apply those 12 credits toward a 30-hour **Equipment Maintenance Certificate**.

Even at the \$3000 level, the program does not break even, but if some students go on to complete the Equipment Maintenance Certificate that is funded, then a limited offering of the short term certificate is viable. With additional state support, Edison State and many other community colleges could significantly expand enrollment in high-demand short-term certificates.

Direct funding for instructors and/or financial aid for students would allow Edison State to increase enrollment to a cost effective level.

Thank you again for this opportunity to comment on funding opportunities for community colleges in Ohio. I am willing to take any questions that you may have at this time or in the future.