

Ohio House
Finance, Primary and Secondary Sub-Committee
HB 49, State Biennial Budget
Testimony of Ben Brigham, Nidec Minster Corporation
Ohio Association of Comprehensive and Compact Career Technical Schools
March 16, 2017

Chair Cupp, Vice Chair Miller, thank you for inviting me to provide testimony regarding career technical education. My name is Ben Brigham, I am the Manager, Talent Development for Nidec Minster Corporation. I am the administrator for overall corporate training activities, including soft skills, leadership and skilled trades training. *I graduated from an Ohio career tech secondary program in 1983. I worked in Tool & Die and went on to earn undergraduate and Master's degrees.* I began working in Ohio's public career technical system in 1989 and continued to work in workforce development for 24 years before joining Nidec Minster in 2013.

Nidec Minster is a 122 year-old Original Equipment Manufacturer located in rural West Central Ohio with a global customer base. We employ about 520 employees and *roughly half are skilled tradespeople.* We recruit fresh talent from career tech schools in Auglaize, Allen, Van Wert and Shelby Counties. *At least 200 of our employees have graduated from an Ohio career tech program with the majority being from machining, ag diesel, and welding programs.*

Ohio career tech students earn a career passport and this allows them to bring initial technical skills into the job; however, we initially employ career tech graduates as apprentices and they receive additional training in the company's internal system. The additional training is about a three year process. Showing their commitment to investing into these career technical graduates in the past few years, Nidec has built a \$1M+ training lab facility and staffed it with two full-time instructors. We currently have about 60 apprentices.

The bottom line for Nidec is that career tech students are the lifeblood of our company's skilled workforce. I can say without a steady supply of skilled talent from effective programs such as those contained in the career technical education system in Ohio, we would have no choice but to relocate to a state that has an effective system in place. Our products are highly technical, engineered-to-order stamping presses, and are built one at a time by highly skilled technical and tradespeople. Our business depends upon our ability to recruit graduates from career-technical programs.

I appreciate the ability to offer my experience as a career tech graduate, service in public workforce development, and private sector employer of career tech graduates. I would be willing to answer any questions you may have.