



Chair Gardner, Ranking Member Williams and members of the Senate Higher Education Subcommittee of Finance ...my name is Jo Alice Blondin, and I have served as President of Clark State Community College in Springfield, Beavercreek, and Bellefontaine since July 2013.

Community colleges train the future workforce and upskill the current workforce in order to be responsive to industry needs. As a result of this mission, community colleges must be flexible and offer multiple pathways into the workforce to enable the growth of our economy and the future success of Ohio. For this reason, community colleges offer certificates of value, or short-term certificates, associate's degrees, and, with legislative approval and support, a limited number of job-focused baccalaureate degrees.

Students who pursue short-term certificates at Clark State have found real-market value in attaining these credentials. For this reason, Clark State plans to develop more short-term certificates in order to upskill the existing workforce and allow for an early career entry point for the unemployed and underemployed. For example, Clark State's basic manufacturing certificate comprises 15 weeks and, upon completion, results in an entry-level manufacturing job in our region. If the student chooses to continue an additional 15 weeks and pursues a certificate in one of four areas, such as welding, industrial maintenance certificate, Computer Numerical Controls' (CNC) operator, or additive manufacturing, he or she increases his or her pay to \$18-22 per hour. The value of these short-term certificates, particularly in STEM and career-focused fields, cannot be underestimated. I respectfully ask for your support to provide funding to our institutions to stand up these programs and clarify that our students should be able to access OCOG to pay for their tuition costs.

In this year's budget, Governor Kasich has requested and the House concurred on the allowance of specific job-focused baccalaureate degrees offered by community colleges that fill critical workforce needs in our communities. Clark State Community College would like to pursue plans to offer one applied baccalaureate degree in Manufacturing Technology Management. This degree is supported by our industry partners, such as Honda North America, Cascade Manufacturing, and McGregor Metalworks, and leads to management and supervisory careers as well as higher-level hands-on skills at these and other 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. We have gone from training fewer than 20 students annually in 2013 to training nearly 300 students since the inception of the grant in 2014. This degree would complement our

existing five short-term certificates and associate degree, 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 that will help guide us when we are ready to shape the curriculum for this four-year degree in Manufacturing Technology Management. Additional approval will then be needed by the Ohio Department of Higher Education and the Higher Learning Commission. Thank you.

Attached to this testimony are letters of support from Honda North America and McGregor Metalworking for budget language in HB 49 which would allow Clark State to offer a Manufacturing Technology Management baccalaureate degree.



Honda North America, Inc.
24000 Honda Parkway
Marysville, OH 43040-9251

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.



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March 22, 2017

Mr. John Carey
Chancellor
Ohio Department of Higher Education
30 East Broad Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Dear Chancellor Carey:

Well-paying jobs with rich benefits are going un-filled at The McGregor Metalworking Companies in Springfield, Ohio. A check of our website this morning shows current open job postings for nearly 25 technical positions within our 4 companies. Positions such as press operators, toolmakers, weld engineers, quality technicians and maintenance mechanics are currently being sought. And they have been for some time.

Partnerships such as the one we have currently with Clark State Community College offer our company some hope in identifying and training prospective employees through their applied and hands-on learning environment. The product of these programs is either an applied baccalaureate degree or a short-term certificate in high demand fields within our company.

Right now, McGregor is participating in Clark State's program with a second shift maintenance technician named Elaxis Caves. Our intention is to hire her, full-time, upon completion of the program. Elaxis will be offered an hourly premium at McGregor upon her completion of her manufacturing technology certificate from Clark State. Candidates who earn a two-year degree are offered an additional premium in pay with our company. Additional opportunities to increase her wage will be offered with on the job training—there's potential for her to earn up to \$28 per hour!

Clark State Community College, an ardent supporter of Springfield's strong manufacturing community, has listened carefully to the workforce development needs of McGregor—responding with an array of technical opportunities and training to help fill the void of skilled candidates for the bevy of positions being sought within our companies and other companies like ours.

We support Clark State's request for funding for their institution and institutions like theirs who are very clearly addressing the lack of candidates with the skilled trades we need to sustain our businesses. As the third generation owner of our firm, and on behalf of our 400 associates, I implore you, please do not let us down.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "James B. McGregor, Jr." with a stylized flourish at the end.

James B. McGregor, Jr.

Vice President of Sales, The McGregor Metalworking Companies