



June 18, 2018

The Honorable Rick Snyder
Governor
P.O. Box 30013
Lansing, MI 48909

Dear Governor Snyder,

On behalf of Buist Electric, I would like to express our appreciation for the workforce development services provided by West Michigan Works! Buist Electric is an electrical construction company founded in 1964. Today we have over 350 employees serving over 2000 active clients. While a vast majority of our work is in Southwest MI, we serve clients throughout the country. All of our employees live in and around the areas of Grand Rapids and Kalamazoo. The clients we serve consist of the largest hospitals and manufacturers in the state to the small neighborhood coffee shop down the road.

We specialize in not only commercial/industrial power and lighting but also in the areas of low voltage structured cabling, industrial automation, building controls, outdoor utility construction, power testing and more. Each of these areas takes a significant amount of training to take employees from apprenticeship to expert.

We connected with West Michigan Works! because although we are blessed with extremely low turnover, we have the challenge of a consistent need to hire new untrained candidates as more senior employees develop their expertise. Being able to provide specialized training as needed will be important to the future development of our team. Michigan Works! helped us reach our goal of hiring and training several new electrical apprentices as well as providing technical training for several key automation and testing positions.

What we've found most valuable about partnering with West Michigan Works! is their level of understanding of our industry and their commitment to continue developing skilled trades. Thank you for providing Skilled Trades Training Funds to companies such as Buist Electric.

Sincerely,

Kim Kohlhoff
HR Manager
616-583-5201