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West Michigan Works/ACSET:

ESPEC North America is a manufacturer of environmental test chambers. We received a \$139,587 STTF grant in December 2018. Training will be provided to roughly 85 of our 220 total employees at our Hudsonville, MI location.

TIG Welding is one of the on-site classes we were able to offer our employees thru the grant. Completion of this class results in an official certification for our employees. ESPEC benefits as well as the quality of our welds have increased dramatically and the amount of re-work decreased significantly.

Clinton Hoover, from our Custom Fabrication department, states "I learned a lot from the TIG welding class. I thought my welds were good but they weren't. I'm excited to now be certified and the quality of my welds are much better".

Brazing is a skill used in three of our departments at ESPEC. This is a skill near impossible to find, recruitment wise. Eight of our employees went thru a grant sponsored Brazing class this past December and another 8 will attend this coming June.

Johnathan Cochren, from our Standard Final Assembly department, states "I had brazed before but I really didn't know what I was doing. I am much more confident in my Brazing skills now and I'm able to help out the department more. We braze a lot and we only had 1 certified Brazer in my department before I went to class".

The STTF grant has made a major impact on our organization overall and we are very grateful.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "EK", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Emily Kelly
HR Manager