



September 19, 2019

The Honorable Gretchen Whitmer  
Governor  
P.O. Box 30013  
Lansing, MI 48909

Dear Governor Whitmer:

I am sending this letter to you to express my appreciation for the Going PRO Training Fund and how it has helped our company continue to thrive in the Allegan community.

As a leader in the adventure industry, Ropes Courses, Inc. (RCI) blends exceptional function, design, creativity and family entertainment into unique ropes course attractions to bring family entertainment to people across the globe. RCI products are engineered with patented integrated systems. These systems heighten safety, maximizing staff and increasing participant age range and throughput capacities delivering unforgettable, engaging, in-the-air excitement to participants.

Michelle Krcatovich in the Allegan County Michigan Works office has been the most important part in our company not only learning about the grant the first year, but building on it each year since. While we continue to grow every year, our employees need to grow as well. Without Michelle's help, I have no idea how I would be able to submit the grant to serve the employees of this company. She is a calming and guiding force in my hectic weeks and you could not find a better representative of how this grant can help. Because of her, this year we started our first apprenticeship program in conjunction with the grant. We currently have one employee taking classes in Machine Repair and this last semester he succeeded in accomplishing a 4.0 GPA. We were all very proud and it would not have been possible without the grant.

This year our employees completed training in Mag Particle and UT thickness inspection, PLC wiring, OSHA certification, CDL licensing, Dangerous Goods certification for shipping and PMP certification. This was a more varied list than in years past and included different departments other than Fabrication – which was primarily our focus in the first year.



We are excited to once again submit our application for 2020. Since having completed one apprenticeship program (with great success) we are now looking to expand the apprenticeship opportunities in many different departments. The first successful apprenticeship has inspired more employees to inquire about options for them and their growth within the company.

The photo that is included with this letter shows an example of the product that we manufacture. As you can see, it is a very specific product but one that brings a lot of enjoyment to entire families together and that our employees love to represent! Sometimes it is hard to explain what a ropes course is, so I thought it would be great to include the product along with the smiling faces of some of the employees that were trained this year.

The rewards of this grant are seemingly endless. I jokingly like to call it our “wish list” but that is what it is...what we would wish for our employees and how can we retain them. We cannot wait to see where this grant can continue to take Ropes Courses, Inc. and we are extremely excited for the future. Thank you again for bringing this valuable resource to the community, employees and Ropes Courses, Inc.

Sincerely,

Molly Kinnison

Human Resources | Ropes Courses, Inc.

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