



Thursday January 2, 2020

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

Dear Governor Whitmer,

On behalf of Ventura Manufacturing, I would like to express our appreciation for the workforce development services provided by West Michigan Works. Ventura is a growing mid-size manufacturer located in Western Michigan in the city of Zeeland. We provide value to our customers by providing solutions to problems and in the process eliminating waste and reducing costs. The services we provide range from engineering to manufacturing of the assembly.

For over five years, West Michigan Works has assisted in searching for training programs that would increase the skill set for our team members. Michigan Works was instrumental in helping us reach our goal on continuous learning and development through the GoingPro Training Fund made available. We highly value our relationship with Michigan Works and see it as a partnership by sharing the vision of not only retaining but raising the skill set of the workforce through training. What I find most valuable about partnering with West Michigan Works is their desire to see growth in the employee and within the community.

People growth is at the core of Ventura and we continuously look for ways to engage our team into growth opportunities. One of our recent success stories is Michael Henretty-Jornales. He has been part of the team for over 5 years and has begun to thrive. He originally started as part time with no experience in manufacturing, then through time invested in coaching and development, he began to discover what area brought him joy at work. The technical area is where he found purpose. Michael spent his first few years in assembly and now currently is in a Technical / Engineering role responsible for various production cells. He is currently working as Engineer and looking for ways to continue to learn, grow, and help improve the business. The training received has allowed him to be a further contributor in team. "Not only did the GD&T training give me a basic understanding for interpreting engineering drawings, it also sparked a desire to learn more about the subject of GD&T and the design process it is involved in. As a result, I am actively pursuing a certification in Product Design engineering from Ferris State University in addition to my Bachelor's degree in Manufacturing Engineering Technology." We see the positives resulting from his applied knowledge acquired from the training and are excited for his future contribution with Ventura.

Sincerely,

Jorge Rodriguez
People
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