



Truck Leasing and Rentals
Fleet Maintenance
Safety and Compliance Consulting
Used Truck Sales



3940 Eastern Ave. SE, Grand Rapids, Michigan 49508-2497 Phone (616) 243-7033 www.startruckrentals.com

July 15, 2019

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

Dear Governor Whitmer,

On behalf of Star Truck Rentals, Inc., I would like to express our appreciation for the workforce development services provided by West Michigan Works! Star Truck Rentals is a family-owned truck rental/lease company based out of Grand Rapids, Michigan. We have 16 branches in Michigan and one in Goshen, Indiana. We employ approximately 300 individuals, with a large portion of this number being diesel mechanics. Star Truck Rentals history dates back to 1865, when the company was first founded to carry cargo from the railroads. Today, Star Truck Rentals is primarily a truck rental and leasing company. In addition to maintaining our fleet of rental and leased vehicles, we also provide medium and heavy-duty diesel repair services to outside company vehicles on a time and material basis. While these are our primary lines of business, we do also sell used equipment and through a subsidiary, Star Safety and Compliance, we offer commercial driver license training and testing.

Star connected with West Michigan Works! because we needed assistance with filling heavy duty truck mechanic/technician positions. Due to the deficit of trained diesel mechanics in the workforce, Star has been struggling to maintain our desired level of service and productivity. The decreased amount of available skilled labor we need has put a major burden on our ability to meet business demand and grow as a company. A lack of new Diesel Mechanics entering the workforce partnered with retirements has amplified the issue. Retirements are extremely impactful because they leave a void in the foundation knowledge, skills and experience that these individuals take with them and takes years to replace in training newer technicians. Michigan Works provided Star with the insight and guidance to establish an apprenticeship program that will directly address our needs. We matched an entry level training course up with an apprenticeship and found the answer to our diesel technician shortage.

Star Truck Rentals has benefited by working with West Michigan Works! Because we were unable to find the skilled labor we needed, MI Works! helped us find a solution to create the skilled labor we needed. What Star found most valuable about partnering with West Michigan Works! is the



Locations in Battle Creek, Cadillac, Comstock Park, Flint, Gaylord, Holland, Jackson, Kalamazoo, Kentwood, Lansing, Muskegon, Plymouth, Saginaw, Traverse City, Warren and Goshen, Indiana



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resources they provide, along with the individualized attention to our company's needs. They have been a great source of guidance and knowledge in the areas of training and apprenticeship. The communication with our Michigan Works! liaison is open and prompt.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Heather Kimble". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Heather" being more prominent than the last name "Kimble".

Heather Kimble
Director of Human Resources
616-243-7033 Ext. 182