



December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2019

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

Dear Governor Whitmer,

On behalf of Plasan North America, I would like to express our appreciation for the workforce development services provided by the West Michigan Works! team.

Plasan North America moved to Michigan from Vermont in 2015, and we specialize in customer-defined, build-to-print armor solutions and metal fabrication. Utilizing advanced technology, our engineers oversee every phase of product development, from blue sky ideation to precision manufacturing. Our capabilities include autoclave processing, composite pressing, pultrusion, laser cutting, welding, bending, large scale blasting and others.

Our company originally connected with West Michigan Works! because we needed assistance with recruiting talent and upskilling our workforce. Help from their team, along with funding assistance from the GoingPRO Talent Fund, has greatly benefitted our organization this year. Thanks to this grant, we were able to send several of our employees to Leadership, Project Management, and other technical trainings. Additionally, we were able to hire and train over 30 new employees, a few of which are veterans and older workers. Grand Rapids is highly competitive when it comes to recruiting and retaining talent, especially in the manufacturing sector. In our rapidly growing and changing business, developing our new and existing talent is paramount in our long term strategies to meet demand with excellence, and West Michigan Works! continues to help us with these goals.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lisa Thorsen", written in a cursive style.

Lisa Thorsen  
Human Resources Manager  
(616) 965-9471