



7/24/19

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

Dear Governor Whitmer,

On behalf of Firstronic LLC, I would like to express our appreciation for the workforce development services provided by West Michigan Works! Firstronic is a mid-size Electronic Manufacturing Company in West Michigan that is rapidly growing and expanding in our current customer base as well as new customer opportunities. We assemble printed circuit boards for the medical, industrial and automotive industries. Because of our rapid growth, during a time of low unemployment rates, our business poses many challenges in finding trained candidates to fulfil numerous job openings that we are experiencing.

Our Company connected with West Michigan Works! because we needed assistance with the level of training that is needed to maintain a high level of flexibility with our workforce as well as the quality requirements required in the Electronic Manufacturing Industry. Michigan Works! Has helped us reach our goals of providing IPC training / certification to 76 employees, 9 certifications to current Program Managers, Engineers, Supervisors and Quality Engineers for Six Sigma Green Belt Training, and hiring and training 30 new employees during this time

Our company has benefited from GoingProTalentFund and working with West Michigan Works! because we now have a more flexible workforce due to the fact that we have cross trained our employees in as many functions as possible. We know that the continued key to our efficiency is having our employees be capable of conducting all different types of electronic manufacturing functions in a "high velocity throughput environment" using synchronous flow manufacturing techniques and helping us to maintain our high quality standards that our customers expect.

What we find/found most valuable about this grant funding and partnering with West Michigan Works! is the fact that we have been able to leverage the funds that Firstronic has invested in new equipment / automation by utilizing the GoingProTalentFund to cover the training of our operators and ensure that they are able to run the new equipment efficiently. As a result, Firstronic is able to continue growing in

a very competitive global market segment – in fact, we are continuing to expand by exporting our products to many countries, including China, based upon our highly efficient workforce.

Thanks again for all the support we have received through this program!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sandy Kolp". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping "S" at the beginning and a stylized "K" and "P" at the end.

Sandy Kolp
Director of Quality
616-648-7223