



Eclipse

Tool & Die Inc.

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

August 28, 2019

Dear Governor Whitmer:

On behalf of Eclipse Tool & Die, I would like to express our appreciation for the workforce development services provided by *West Michigan Works*, as we applied for the 2018/19 PRO Talent Grant funding.

Eclipse Tool and Die is a mid size employer of 41 employees. We are a manufacturer of metal stamping dies used in production and assembly plants for the automotive & appliance industry both in the U.S. and Mexico. Eclipse Tool and Die collaborated with Michelle Kratovich and Craig Stolsonburg, our Business Solutions Representatives for *West Michigan Works* in determining what training would be most beneficial for our company.

This years Go Pro Grant assisted employees in achieving skills necessary to perform job requirements through accelerated learning allowing advancement in their skilled trades positions within our industry and company.

Training included classes and 'On the Job Training' for our new apprentice, utilizing the special apprenticeship portion of the grant. It is so important to keep building apprentice opportunities to keep the Tool & Die industry alive and Eclipse Tool & Die is excited to be a part of that. Two of our employees developed Project Management skills at a local college, two employees from our design department received intense training in Process Engineering. We also were able to train for open positions in our CNC Department teaching two employees programming with VISI-machining software. Eclipse was able to hire 4 new employees to our staff.

The STTF Grant Program impacts our business as it allows funds to be used to expand our capabilities, remain competitive, and pursue new business contracts contributing to our state and local economy.

As the United States rejuvenates the manufacturing sector it is our hope that more grants and programs like this will be offered to Skilled Trades companies like Eclipse Tool & Die which increase employee productivity and competitiveness for Michigan business.

Sincerely,

Patty DeGood
Office Manager / Human Resources
Eclipse Tool & Die, Inc.