



**APPENDIX A- Cover Sheet**

**WORKFORCE ESSENTIALS (NORTH TENNESSEE LWIA8)**

**2016 Labor Education Alignment Program (LEAP 2.0)**

Mechatronics-to-Jobs (M-2-J)

Workforce Essentials (LWIA 8)

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH

1. Volunteer State Community College
2. Sumner, Wilson, Macon, Trousdale, and Robertson LEAs
3. Betty Machine, 324 Freehill Road, Hendersonville, TN  
Alladdin Temp Rite, PO Box 2978, Hendersonville, TN  
YAPP USA Automotive Systems, 300 ABC Blvd, Gallatin, TN

Dr. Philip Clifford, Dean of Math and Science

Volunteer State Community College

1480 Nashville Pike, Gallatin, TN 37066

615 230-3250

Philip.Clifford@volstate.edu

Funding requested: \$ 994,259



President/Director of Higher Education

Project Director

**Mechatronics-to-Jobs**  
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## **M-2-J Abstract**

Mechatronics-to-Jobs (M-2-J) provides a strategically mapped approach to solving a regional workforce shortage of skilled applicants in the manufacturing sector. The M-2-J project will serve five middle Tennessee counties (Sumner, Macon, Trousdale, Wilson and Robertson) through establishing a stacked career pathway from high school potentially through a 4-year university. Middle Tennessee has experienced much needed economic growth with over 3,300 jobs created in the manufacturing sector during the last four years. Numerous reports show that there is a clear need for training and instruction in Mechatronics programs.

Developing a Career Pathway is an integral component to success. M-2-J creates a linear partnership of K-12 schools, TCAT Hartsville and Portland, Volunteer State Community College and Austin Peay State University. The grant will promote dual enrollment and career exploration opportunities for high school students, articulation for students attending a TCAT, AAS in Mechatronics for community college students and a plan that includes articulation to APSU for students interested in a 4-year degree. The M-2-J project will fund equipment to start new classes at VSCC's main campus as well as at VSCC's Highland Crest campus in Springfield. This will offer greater accessibility to students in rural areas of Sumner and Robertson Counties. Workforce Essentials will provide referrals to clients interested in pursuing a manufacturing related job. Additionally, partnering industries will offer paid internships as part of the project's Work-Based Learning (WBL) component to provide students with a hands on learning experience to prepare them for employment upon completion. By aligning our project with the Governor's Drive to 55 campaign to advance education and credentials of Tennesseans, the M-2-J project will offer a guided pathway of stackable and transportable training and education that will address skill shortages and promote education and work-based learning in the manufacturing industry sector. Through our workforce, education, and industry partnerships, the M-2-J project will provide successful skill development that will ensure employment and advancement for unemployed and underemployed middle-Tennessee residents who might otherwise lose precious opportunity to foreign outsourcing.

## LEAP PROPOSAL NARRATIVE

### Section 1. Demonstrated Need

#### *A. Localized data demonstrating need.*

The Advanced Manufacturing industry is one of three areas showing significant growth in the majority of middle Tennessee's regional economic development and employment sectors. Area employers have identified skills gaps in the local labor force due to current workers who are 55 years of age or older and nearing retirement; potential employees who do not have needed training, and traditional methods of recruitment and retention that have not proven to be effective. This is recognized as a national trend.

"Defying the high national unemployment rate, as many as 600,000 skilled manufacturing positions in the United States are unfilled due to the nagging shortage of qualified workers, a new survey concludes."<sup>1</sup>

According to the TN Department of Economic and Community Development, over the last three years, Tennessee has posted the second largest percentage increase in the Southeast in manufacturing GDP, which reached \$48.1 billion in 2014. That's 16 percent of the state's total GDP. Tennessee exports more than \$31 billion in manufactured goods annually. Our largest categories of exported products include: transportation equipment, computer and electronic products, chemicals, miscellaneous manufactured commodities, and machinery, except electrical. These five sectors account for 76 percent of the state's manufacturing exports. Advanced manufacturing job creation in Tennessee far outpaces national growth, at 27.1% job growth in Tennessee compared to 8.7% nationally from 2010 to 2015. With the increase of major manufacturers arriving, such as Beretta USA and Novita, the need for a workforce trained in mechatronics (mechanics, technology, electronics) will continue to increase and stress the training and education system to produce qualified workers.

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<sup>1</sup> Josh Coble (Shortage of Skilled Workers Toking Its Toll on U.S. Manufacturers, Industry Week, Oct.17, 2011

Medical equipment manufacturers, chemical and metals manufacturers have all established advanced manufacturing clusters in middle Tennessee. These clusters, including warehousing distribution of products and services, have given the manufacturers the ability to extend their markets overseas. Due to its proximity to road, rail and water distribution, according to the UT Center for Industrial Services, middle Tennessee has seen a boom in manufacturing and is currently 24% above the United States average in manufacturing employment.

With this growth and technological advancement there is an increased demand for skilled workers to ensure the machinery producing and sorting goods is maintained to the high tolerances for today's products. Automation and robotics are key to advanced manufacturing and maintaining that is critical in a global economy. The proposed regional cluster of Sumner, Macon, Trousdale, Wilson and Robertson Counties, are aligned well with the advent of mechatronics education and a career pathway of mechatronics instruction, transferable to a four-year degree in advanced manufacturing. The proposed Mechatronics-To-Jobs (M-2-J) grant project is poised to be the conduit to fill manufacturing needs.

B. *Clear linkages between grant activities and local needs*

Advanced manufacturing can be defined as “the application and integration of innovative technologies, materials, and processes to the production of manufactured products.” Jobs range from operation of equipment, to maintenance, repair, and ultimately design. As such, the field encompasses a wide range of employment opportunities, levels of training, and career interests. Mechatronics and a career pathway of mechatronics education and certification via the Siemens model will produce the highly skilled workforce needed for middle Tennesseans to gain high wage jobs while further advancing Tennessee industry into to the global marketplace. Through mechatronics education and hands-on training gained through employer internship programs, the educational team of Volunteer State and Austin Peay State University, along with its business partners Novita, Betty Machines, YAPP USA, and Aladdin Temp Rite, will boost

regional workforce to one of high quality, high skill, and labor ready for manufacturing throughout the region. This proposal of mechatronics continuing education pathway options (high school dual enrollment, TCAT diploma programs and articulation to a community college, community college AAS degrees, and articulation to a university 4-year BS degree) will benefit the region's economy by increasing productivity and putting upward pressure on employee wages. The natural progression of certification between the educational institutions will ensure the labor force continues to increase its skill sets to meet production needs via Seimens level 1-3 certification.

*C. Alignment with TN Drive to 55 goals*

In 2014 the Nashville MSA alone recorded over 2000 jobs in advanced manufacturing and the data from Economic Modeling Specialists predict an increase of 4.6 % in just the specific areas of mechanical engineering technicians, electronic repairers of industrial equipment, industrial machinery mechanics and maintenance machinery workers. All require a background in mechatronics skills. The M-2-J project is not only designed to increase the supply of skilled applicants, but will also prepare to meet the need of supplanting a retiring workforce in positions that will be vacated. This will be accomplished through dual enrollment opportunities within the counties' school systems and through an annual Career Expo that invites eighth-grade students to explore manufacturing industry opportunities.

In 2014 alone the number of openings for those positions listed above, was over 17% below the graduation level of educational institutions and without additional mechatronics programs within the region those deficiencies will only increase. This aligns with a recent Manufacturing Institute survey that shows 74% of businesses felt that workforce shortages in skilled production roles would have a significant impact on the company's capability of production.

**Section 2. Program Plan**

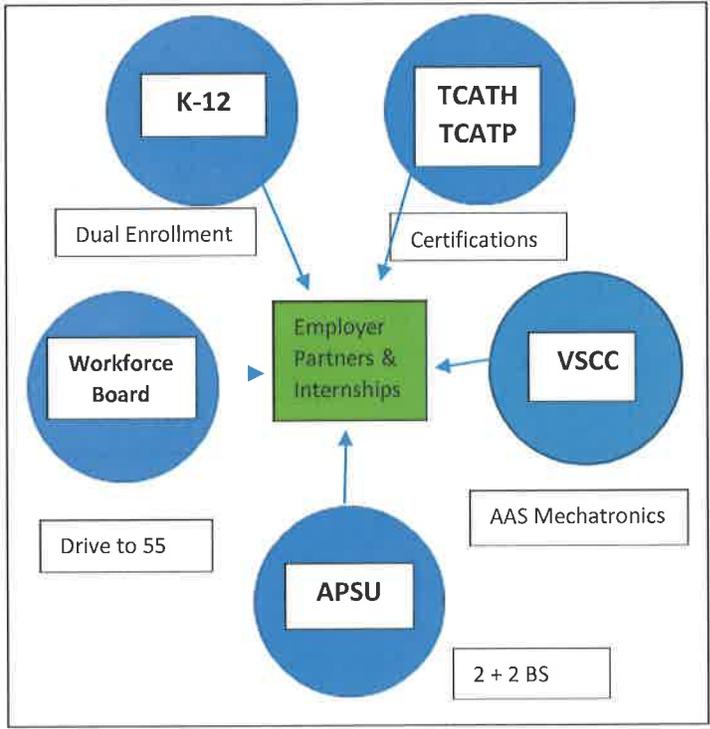
*A. Detailed project timeline*

Task Name	Start	Finish
Project Start	9/14/16	9/14/16
Begin hiring process for Project Director	9-14-16	10-15-16
Execute MOU with APSU	9-20-16	10-20-16
Order Mechatronics Equipment	9/14/16	10/3/16
Steering Committee Members meet to begin input on project activities	9/30/16	10-30-16
TCAT and VSCC will implement articulation agreement specific to mechatronics. APSU and VSCC will develop 2 +2 program. APSU will obtain certification for 2 faculty members	10-1-16	12-30-16
Presentation to county schools for dual enrollment options	10-1-16	ongoing
Implement job co-operatives and internships with first student placements at spring enrollment	10-1-16	Ongoing for grant period
Begin Hiring process for Instructor	10/14/16	2/28/17
Develop Marketing Plan	12-1-16	12-22-16
Steering Committee meets to monitor development phase of Mechatronics program	December 2016	December 2016
Installation of equipment	1/2/17	6/16/17
Instructor Training	3/1/17	3/20/17
Career Fair for secondary schools and public at VSCC campus	April 2017	Spring and fall annually
Career Expo for K-8 at VSCC campus	May 2017	Annually
Evaluation of first year activities and internship program	6-30-17	ongoing
Year 1, Fall semester	8/21/17	12/8/17
Steering Committee review of evaluation	1-15-18	quarterly meetings
Evaluation of first semester courses	2-15-17	ongoing
Year 1, Spring Semester	1/16/18	5/4/18
Evaluation of second semester courses	6-30-17	ongoing

Year 2, Fall Semester	8/20/18	12/7/18
Spring semester students begin Job Placement for post completion or enrollment for 2+2 transfer to APSU or receive certificate for completion of 4 courses	March 2019	ongoing
Grant closeout and reporting	March 2019	April 2019

*B. Clear alignment of workforce data and Drive to 55 goals*

Through articulation agreements between VSCC and TCAT Hartsville and TCAT Portland, training programs offer Level I certifications that lead to skilled jobs in mechatronics, or transfer to VSCC’s new state-of-the-art training in Mechatronics through an interdisciplinary format by combining mechanical, electronic, and computer science skills into a comprehensive Mechatronics training program. The M-2-J project is to extend educational pathways and to standardize coursework for students seeking entry in Advanced Manufacturing and Mechatronics occupations. This increased workforce capacity will help alleviate the existing and critical emerging shortage of skilled workers occurring from industry use of complex equipment and the concurrent aging/retirement of experienced technicians. This standardized



program will allow for an assertive regional outreach effort to attract and retain students and increase opportunities for unskilled and marginally skilled individuals to secure high paying, high skilled Advanced Manufacturing jobs throughout middle Tennessee and the United States. The M-2-J is proposing to purchase 2 sets of equipment. One set of equipment would be placed at the VSCC Gallatin campus and would be available

to all partnering members of the M-2-J project. Through this partnership, students can begin post-secondary work while in high school to earn early college credit in a high demand field with tremendous growth potential. The second set would be placed at VSCC's satellite campus in Springfield in order to allow students to have easier access to a 2 + 2 educational pathway with transfer to APSU. This partnership would create a pipeline for students to move into highly skilled careers. VSCC will provide additional mechatronics equipment to expand base equipment purchased under the grant and supplement equipment for the new Cookeville college satellite site.

For Austin Peay to offer Mechatronics degrees that meet Siemens standards, it is required that faculty teaching Mechatronics courses be certified for the level of Siemens training the courses are associated with. First year courses require that the instructor be "Level 1" Siemens certified. Second year courses leading to the AAS degree, or to the second year of a BS degree in Mechatronics, require "Level 2" Siemens certification. Third and fourth year courses leading to the completion of the BS degree require that the instructor be "Level 3" certified. Since Austin Peay will be offering both the AAS and BS degrees, instructors within the program will be required to have all three certifications if the instructors will be teaching in the BS concentration.

*C. Measurable objectives*

Goal	Measurement	Outcome
Increase the number of high school students pursuing CTE courses in Advanced Manufacturing	Number of Enrollments in CTE dual enrollment courses designed to prepare them for entry into the AAS mechatronics program	VSCC enrollment goal of 25 HS dual enrollment students
Prepare mechatronics students for internships with partnering employers	Number of students who complete internships	15 VSCC AAS graduates obtain jobs with a mechatronics industry at a minimum of \$15/hour wage

Prepare mechatronics students for articulation to APSU	Number of students who transfer upon completion	10 VSCC AAS graduates transfer to APSU to complete a BS in Advanced Manufacturing
Align Project with Drive to 55 initiative	Number of people that complete certificate training at Hartsville and Portland TCATS and either secure employment OR transfer to a community college	80% of TCAT completers either secure employment OR transfer to a community college.

*D. Project governance and accountability plan.*

Dr. Phil Clifford, Dean of Math and Science at VSCC, will serve as the interim Project Director for the educational institution until a dedicated Project Director with Mechatronics and workforce development project experience can be hired. Dr. Clifford will continue to provide oversight of the project for the educational institution. John Watz, Vice President for Strategic Planning and Development will serve as the Project Director for the lead applicant, Workforce Essentials in Clarksville. Fiscal accountability for the project will be the responsibility of VSCC, whose Business and Finance division will account and disburse all funding, per the attached budget, using the internal processes guided by the TBR. A steering committee comprised of one member from each of the M-2-J partners (defined in Section 3) will provide oversight and accountability of project goals and performance objectives. An assessment of the metrics and goals will be conducted quarterly and dispersed to the steering committee. Quarterly steering meetings will be held to ensure the project remains on course and that processes can be monitored for continuous improvement which meets or exceed industry expectations.

*E. Role of proposed equipment request*

The proposed equipment, which will allow the establishment of a new program at VSCC's main campus and Highland Crest satellite in Springfield, consists of:

- A complete electrical/electronics lab using state of the art PC based power supplies, oscilloscopes and function generators.

- A fluid power lab that will include hydraulic and pneumatic equipment and components typical of those seen in industry.
- A motors and transformers lab with multiple types of metering for use in training student to understand power distribution and conversion as is typically seen in the industrial environment. Additionally, this lab will be equipped with various variable speed (DC and AC) drives that are commonly used in industry.
- A desktop CNC lab that will be used to introduce students to the concepts of Computer Numerical Controlled manufacturing.
- A modular mechatronics training system that will include 8-10 individual PLC controlled stations. These stations can be utilized individually for beginning projects and then integrated together to form a complete production/assembly system for advanced classes. This system includes all industrial grade automation equipment such as pneumatics, servos, PLCs, sensors, machine vision, robotics, etc. It will contain the capabilities of distribution, material handling, assembly, quality testing, and automated storage and retrieval. This system can be utilized in multiple classes throughout the curriculum.

The goal of the labs included in the proposed equipment is to provide up to 24 students with the theoretical basis and hands-on applications of equipment that is used in state of the art automated industrial facilities. Students will graduate from this program with the skills to setup, install, maintain, program, and troubleshoot automated equipment commonly used in industry.

*F. Structure of Work-Based Learning (WBL) program.*

The M-2-J project, under the supervision of and implementation by the Project Director, will expand upon job-shadowing programs already offered by YAPP USA and Aladdin Temp Rite through paid internship opportunities with partnering employers. Students will be paid \$12 per hour for a 15-hour work week, and 15 weeks during each of the 5 semester covered in the

grant period. Employment and wages will be handled according to all applicable Federal, State and local regulations relating to employment and in accord with the TDOE general policies for Credit-Bearing Work-Based Learning. The employer will maintain and make available records for 3 years, or according to grant specifications. Workforce Essentials will be instrumental in helping to monitor compliance to all federal/state/local employment rules and regulations for student trainee wages and benefits.

Students will have been enrolled in a for credit AAS career path which will be expanded to provide job training for students attaining a certificate through co-op or internship programs. Additionally, the project partnership will seek other employers who are interested in an internship or co-op model so that completing students will be equipped with job experience to pave a direct road to employment in a mechatronics related position. The employers participating in the project have indicated a current shortage of skilled workers and anticipate an increase in this shortage.

**Section 3. Strength of Partnership**

<b>Partner</b>	<b>Role in Project Implementation</b>	<b>Expertise</b>
Workforce Essentials	John Watz will serve as the Project Director for the lead organization. WEI will serve on the steering committee, and act as a liaison between project partners	WE and NTWB are leaders in Workforce Development in the State of Tennessee. For the last five years, LWIA 8 has been one of the top earners of Incentive funds. WE is an innovative company that provides workforce development services in 37 middle and west Tennessee counties. They also provide business services to over 400 employers in Tennessee.
VSCC	The lead educational institution and fiscal agent for M-2-J. Dr. Phil Clifford will serve as	VSCC is part of the TBR system and has had experience in administering numerous

	supervisor of the Project Director while Yolanda Ellison will coordinate K-12 dual enrollment.	workforce grants. The campus will provide staff, additional equipment purchase, space, and ongoing maintenance of equipment in support of the M-2-J project
TCAT Hartsville	Will serve as an educational partner to provide Mechatronics certification for adults and incumbent workers. Mae Perry, Director, will serve as project coordinator for M-2-J	TCAT Hartsville is part of the TBR system. They are the skilled workforce trainer of choice in Trousdale County. As a part of the grant, they will promote articulation of students into the new Mechatronics program at the VSCC Gallatin campus.
APSU	Will serve as the University partner. Dr. Jaime Taylor will serve on the steering committee. APSU will utilize grant funds to credential 2 faculty members for Level 3 Siemens certification.	Leaders from APSU will be responsible for research to determine best practices for their established bachelor's degree in Advanced Manufacturing.
Employer Partners	Three employers have committed their support for the M-2-J Partnership. The employers, Novita, YAPP USA Automotive and Aladdin Temp Rite, have indicated a need for advanced manufacturing or Mechatronics training to fill needed positions. The companies will participate by providing semester internships and on-the-job training. The employers who hire students completing the project educational pathway will take advantage of WIA eligible OJT reimbursement at a rate of half the entry level wage. Employers have committed \$81,000 in wage reimbursement. Each partner employer will designate an employee to serve on the steering committee.	All of the identified employers are committed to workforce training and have existing partnerships within the current project partnership. Each have indicated a need for the success of the project and are committed to support of project goals.

School Systems	Sumner, Wilson, Robertson, Macon and Trousdale school systems have expressed their support of promoting a new mechatronics dual enrollment curriculum and continued participation for 8 <sup>th</sup> grade students in VSCC’s Career Expo to so that students can learn early on about career options in Mechatronics and other areas.	Each school system partnering in the M-2-J project has established dual enrollment programs with VSCC, with Sumner and Robertson having the largest student enrollment.
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**Section 4. Budget Plan**

A. Grant Budget Line-Item Details and Narrative - Attached

B. For the WBL expenses, VSCC will disburse the 50% of funds for each student participating in an internship to the employer who will then handle payment to the student as they would any other employee. VSCC’s Business and Finance office will track the expended grant funds dispersed to employers as they would any other grant project expenditure. VSCC assigns an index code and maintains a separate account for each grant awarded so all grant monies are tracked separately.

**Section 5. Sustainability**

With the establishment of the Mechatronics program at VSCC and the internship agreements with area employers during the grant period, the Project Director salary would no longer be necessary upon grant completion as the activities established by the grant would continue to be overseen by the M-2-J Steering Committee and the College. Therefore, costs incurred going forward would be equipment maintenance, utilities and instructor salary, which will be covered within VSCC’s budget, tuition and fees. With the continued industrial demand for trained personnel in mechatronics, high school students, existing business along with service personnel will provide a steady stream of trainees providing tuition, fees and dual enrollments which will provide sustainability. Tuition and fees will cover instructor costs, and educational institutions will cover utilities in normal budgetary processes. The local school systems have an agreement with VSCC to support dual enrollment tuition within each school system.

VSCC plans to continue the Mechatronics program at both the Gallatin and Highland Crest, Springfield campuses as well as continuing the mechatronics program at our new Cookeville campus. Equipment will need to be upgraded as technology advances in that field. Maintenance and new equipment purchase will be budgeted based on projections and school revenues.

The M-2-J partners will participate in an implementation, in-progress, and sustainment phase in the completion of the overall project prior to the end of the grant. The sustainment phase will include recommendations through the steering committee to sustain resources and program information beyond the end of the grant. The partners of the M-2-j project are committed to maintain ongoing meetings of the steering committee so that sharing of information and cultivation of new and existing resources continues with the intent to expand the project model to other area employers and in other areas of high needs, skilled workforce industries.

Equipment purchased through the LEAP 2.0 grant will be housed and maintained in the long-term by VSCC. These costs will be merged into the college budget as revenue is generated from the implementation of the Mechatronics program.

The specification for the lab systems will require industrial grade equipment; however, the usage, wear, and tear on the equipment will be much less than what is typically seen in industry. Therefore, maintenance and upkeep issues should be minimal. Additionally, since one of the purposes of the Mechatronics program is to teach the maintenance and upkeep of equipment, any maintenance and/or upkeep issues that arise will be handled as a learning experience for the students in the program. All equipment will come with a one-year warranty and any costs incurred subsequent to that will be handled within the lab maintenance budget and/or TAF funds.

Workforce Essentials will work with the private industries to maintain the LEAP developed WBL program through the resources provided in Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act and in their role as an integral part of the American Job Training Center system beyond the 30-month funding period.



**APPENDIX B - BUDGET**

**Line 1 Salaries And Wages**

Project Director X 30 months @ \$45,000/year annual salary = 112,500.00; Instructor Salary X 24 months @ 60,659 annual salary = \$121, 318.

**Line 2 Employee Benefits & Payroll Taxes**

Project Director Benefits @ 45% X 30 months = \$50,625; Instructor Benefits @ 45% X 24 months = 54,593 based on standard TBR college benefit costs

**Line 4 Professional Fees**

**Line 5 Supplies**

**Line 6 Telephone**

**Line 7 Postage And Shipping**

**Line 9 Equipment Rental and Maintenance**

Copier Rental for Mechatronics program \$1,000.00

**Line 10 Printing And Publications**

Supplies - paper, instruction materials \$ 500.00  
Marketing – brochures \$ 1,000.00

**Line 11 Travel**

Conference fees for 2 staff members, travel, lodging, per diem \$4,000.00

**Line 12 Conferences And Meetings**

**Line 15 Grants And Awards**

**Line 18 Other Nonpersonnel Expenses**

Degree Certification requires that at least two faculty members obtain "Level 3" certification. The cost for each level of certification is approximately \$6,000 per faculty member, or a total of \$18,000 to get to "Level 3" certification (\$36,000 total). Level 2 & 3 certification can only be obtained in Germany, each certification program requires two weeks of intensive training. Travel costs plus two weeks of room and board is about \$4,000 per faculty, per certification level (total cost for two faculty, \$24,000).

Total cost for faculty certification \$60,000.00

**Line 19 Capital Purchases**

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Mechatronics Equipment - Main Campus	\$393,800.00
Mechatronics Equipment - Highland Crest	\$75,000.00

**Line 22 Indirect Costs**

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Indirect cost for accounting and grant administration, supportive staff, maintenance of project space at rate of 8% of total eligible costs minus capital purchase	\$38,923.00
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**Line 24 In-Kind Expenses**

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10% of Project Director Supervisor (Dean of Math and Science) annual salary to oversee program	\$8,048.00
50% employer match for student internships	\$81,000.00
College purchase of additional equipment for Gallatin and Highland Crest campuses	\$300,000.00

**Line 25 Total Expenses**

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Total Project Cost	<b>\$1,383,307.00</b>
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## Appendix C - Mechatronics-To-Jobs (M-2-J) Letters of Support List

### Workforce/Economic Development Partners

1. Gallatin Economic Development Agency
2. Forward Sumner
3. Robertson County Chamber of Commerce
4. Sumner County Executive Anthony Hold
5. Gallatin Chamber of Commerce

### Institution of Education Partners

6. Austin Peay University
7. TCAT Hartsville

### Employers

8. Betty Machine
9. Aladdin Temp Rite
10. YAPP USA Automotive
11. Novita

### K-12 School Districts

12. Sumner County Board of Education
13. Trousdale County Board of Education
14. Macon County Board of Education



July 18, 2016

Attn. Curt Johnston

Tennessee Higher Education Commission

404 James Robertson Parkway, Suite 1900

Nashville, TN 37243-0830

RE: LEAP 2.0 Mechatronics-To-Jobs (M-2-J) Grant Application

Dear Mr. Johnston:

The Gallatin Economic Development Agency (GEDA) would like to confirm our support and participation in the Mechatronics-To-Jobs (M-2-J) project proposed by the North Tennessee Workforce Board, Volunteer State Community College and partnering organizations. The project will assist in establishing a robust mechatronics program accessible to Sumner, Wilson, Macon, Trousdale and Robertson county residents who are unemployed or under employed. The M-2-J project would pursue the goals of increasing the supply of skilled employees in advanced manufacturing, and creating a local collaborative that would connect education, economic development and workforce development to pave a pathway from training to employment.

With 2,200 jobs announced in the past 30 months, a majority of them in manufacturing, the GEDA has dedicated a considerable amount of time, effort and money in helping local companies recruit employees. Our Workingallatin.com website, where local companies post open jobs, garnered nearly 300,000 visits in the last year. The GEDA will partner with Volunteer State Community College to insure graduates of the M-2-J program are exposed to all employers in the area, exponentially increasing their ability to find employment in a timely fashion.

The GEDA is committed to participating in the M-2-J Project to develop Work Based Learning and help prepare skilled workers by engaging in the following activities over the next two-and-a-half years and beyond:

- Provide input to the program design and curriculum to better tailor needed job skills
- The Executive Director is willing to serve on the project steering committee
- Share resources, relevant data on job openings, job descriptions, and workforce assessments to identify the necessary skills and competencies needed by workers.
- Assist in finding local manufacturers that are willing to participate by providing instructors and opportunities for students
- Provide information to measure program outcomes.
- Provide opportunities for students who complete the program to interview for job openings at our organization
- Participate in Career Fairs on the college campus held 1-2 times annually

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Fenton". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

James Fenton

Executive Director

Gallatin Economic Development Agency



*A Strategic Partnership to Enhance Sumner County's Economic Growth*

July 25, 2016

Attn. Curt Johnston  
Tennessee Higher Education Commission  
404 James Robertson Parkway, Suite 1900  
Nashville, TN 37243-0830

RE: LEAP 2.0 Mechatronics-To-Jobs (M-2-J) Grant Application

Dear Mr. Johnston:

Forward Sumner Economic Partnership would like to confirm our support and participation in the Mechatronics-To-Jobs (M-2-J) project proposed by the North Tennessee Workforce Board, Volunteer State Community College and partnering organizations. The project will assist in establishing a robust mechatronics program accessible to Sumner, Wilson, Macon, Trousdale and Robertson county residents who are unemployed or under employed. The M-2-J project would pursue the goals of increasing the supply of skilled employees in advanced manufacturing, and creating a local collaborative that will connect economic development, workforce development and education to pave a pathway from training to employment.

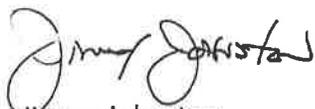
Forward Sumner Economic Partnership is committed to participating in the M-2-J Project to develop Work Based Learning and help prepare skilled workers by engaging in the following activities over the next two-and-a-half years and beyond:

- Administer the Sumner County Schools Job Shadow program out of Gallatin High School
- Chair the Sumner County Schools Advisory Council for Career & Technical Education

- Participate in developing and implementing a paid internship program that awards academic credit to students pursuing an advanced manufacturing career.
- Share resources, relevant data on job openings, job descriptions, and workforce assessments to identify the necessary skills and competencies needed by workers.

LEAP 2.0 provides a great opportunity to build and sustain the skilled workforce that is required for the jobs of today and tomorrow.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jimmy Johnston". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J".

Jimmy Johnston

President & CEO



Tennessee Higher Education Commission  
Attn. Curt Johnston  
404 James Robertson Parkway, Suite 1900  
Nashville, TN 37243-0830

RE: LEAP 2.0 Mechatronics-To-Jobs (M-2-J) Grant Application

Dear Mr. Johnston:

The Robertson County Chamber of Commerce would like to confirm our support and participation in the Mechatronics-To-Jobs (M-2-J) project proposed by the North Tennessee Workforce Board, Volunteer State Community College and partnering organizations. The project will assist in establishing a robust mechatronics program accessible to Sumner, Wilson, Macon, Trousdale and Robertson County residents who are unemployed or under employed. The M-2-J project would pursue the goals of increasing the supply of skilled employees in advanced manufacturing, and creating a local collaborative that would connect education, economic development and workforce development to pave a pathway from training to employment.

This multi-pronged approach to creating a talent pipeline in advanced manufacturing meets the needs of Robertson County's expanding manufacturing base. It addresses the skill shortage problems that our community and the surrounding manufacturing clusters face on a daily basis. Our Chamber has an active business retention and expansion initiative known as SEE (Supporting Existing Employers) and our company interviews have uncovered a large need for this type of training. The fact that once approved it will be self sustaining, expose high school students to skilled trades, while providing adults a career in in-demand jobs is a win-win for all. The Chamber and its businesses support this project and will be providing input for curriculum development as well as promoting the program in the community.

I ask for your favorable consideration of this application as it will further support economic initiatives in Robertson County.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Margot Fosnes". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Margot Fosnes  
President & Chief Economic Development Officer



**ANTHONY HOLT**  
SUMNER COUNTY EXECUTIVE

July 21, 2016

Attn. Curt Johnston  
Tennessee Higher Education Commission  
404 James Robertson Parkway, Suite 1900  
Nashville, TN 37243-0830

RE: LEAP 2.0 Mechatronics-To-Jobs (M-2-J) Grant Application

Dear Mr. Johnston:

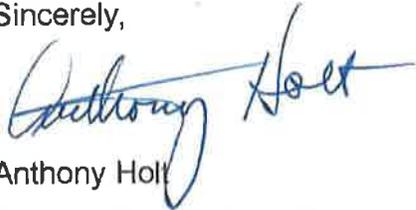
The Sumner County would like to confirm our support and participation in the Mechatronics-To-Jobs (M-2-J) project proposed by the North Tennessee Workforce Board, Volunteer State Community College and partnering organizations. The project will assist in establishing a robust mechatronics program accessible to Sumner, Wilson, Macon, Trousdale and Robertson county residents who are unemployed or under employed. The M-2-J project would pursue the goals of increasing the supply of skilled employees in advanced manufacturing, and creating a local collaborative that would connect education, economic development and workforce development to pave a pathway from training to employment.

This multi-pronged approach to create a talent pipeline in advanced manufacturing meets the needs of Sumner County's expanding manufacturing base. Our growing industrial park in Portland, new industries such as Beretta in Gallatin have strained the available skill sets for industrial maintenance techs, robotics technicians, and engineering technicians. The Mechatronics to Jobs initiative solves the skill shortage problems for our community and the surrounding manufacturing clusters. We

whole heartedly support this grant and know that business and industry will be excited for its approval. The fact that once approved it will be self sustaining, expose high school students to skilled trades, while providing adults a career in in-demand jobs is a win- win for all. Sumner County and its businesses support this project and will be providing input for curriculum development as well as promoting the program in the community.

I ask for your favorable consideration of this application as it will further support economic initiatives in Sumner County.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Anthony Holt". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Anthony Holt

Sumner County Executive

AH/ct



*Committed to leading the growth and development of the business community, thereby supporting prosperity and quality living for the citizens of Gallatin, Tennessee.*

**Board of Directors**

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Emily Sample

Hemel Serati

Terrell Somerville

HD Wheeler

**Gallatin Area**

**Chamber of Commerce**

118 West Main Street

Gallatin, TN 37066

Phone: 615-452-4000

Fax: 615-452-4021

Kim Myers

Executive Director

kim@gallatintn.org

www.gallatintn.org

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July 22, 2016

Attn. Curt Johnston

Tennessee Higher Education Commission

404 James Robertson Parkway, Suite 1900

Nashville, TN 37243-0830

RE: LEAP 2.0 Mechatronics-To-Jobs (M-2-J) Grant Application

Dear Mr. Johnston:

The Gallatin Area Chamber of Commerce would like to confirm our support and participation in the Mechatronics-To-Jobs (M-2-J) project proposed by the North Tennessee Workforce Board, Volunteer State Community College and partnering organizations. The project will assist in establishing a robust mechatronics program accessible to Sumner, Wilson, Macon, Trousdale and Robertson county residents who are unemployed or under employed. The M-2-J project would pursue the goals of increasing the supply of skilled employees in advanced manufacturing, and creating a local collaborative that would connect education, economic development and workforce development to pave a pathway from training to employment.

As with most Chambers, the Gallatin Chamber exists to support and promote our growing business community. In doing so, we often serve at the 'connector' for our members – connecting them with the resources needed to succeed. One of the biggest needs we continue to hear is the need for a strong and qualified workforce. We believe that the M-2-J Project is one of the ways we can fill that need and in return, help to aid many of our local employers and strengthen the community as a whole.

The Gallatin Area Chamber of Commerce is committed to participating in the M-2-J Project to develop Work Based Learning and help prepare skilled workers by engaging in the following activities over the next two-and-a-half years and beyond:

- Provide input to the program design and curriculum to better tailor needed job skills
- Assign a company representative to serve on the project steering committee
- Share resources, relevant data on job openings, job descriptions, and workforce assessments to identify the necessary skills and competencies needed by workers.
- Participate as an instrumental partner in developing and implementing a paid internship program that awards academic credit to students pursuing an advanced manufacturing career
- Provide information to measure program outcomes.
- Provide opportunities for students who complete the program to interview for job openings at our organization
- Participate in Career Fairs on the college campus held 1-2 times annually

Sincerely,

*Kim Myers*

Kim Myers

Executive Director

Gallatin Area Chamber of Commerce



July 24, 2016

Attn. Curt Johnston  
Tennessee Higher Education Commission  
404 James Robertson Parkway, Suite 1900  
Nashville, TN 37243-0830

RE: LEAP 2.0 Mechatronics-To-Jobs (M-2-J) Grant Application

Dear Mr. Johnston:

Austin Peay State University (APSU) would like to confirm its support and participation in the Mechatronics-To-Jobs (M-2-J) project proposed by the North Tennessee Workforce Board, Volunteer State Community College (VSCC) and partnering organizations. The project will assist in establishing a robust mechatronics program accessible to Sumner, Wilson, Macon, Trousdale and Robertson county residents who are unemployed or under employed. The M-2-J project would pursue the goals of increasing the supply of skilled employees in advanced manufacturing, and creating a local collaborative that would connect education, economic development and workforce development to pave a pathway from training to employment.

APSU is a state university offering AAS, BS, and MS degrees in Engineering Technology. APSU has been actively involved in training Engineering Technology students in various fields since 1984. Students graduating from the AAS, BS, and MS degrees in Engineering Technology enter the workforce within the region at advanced entry levels resulting in a strengthening of the regional workforce thus strengthening the overall knowledge base for present and future industry within the region. Rigid standards, exceptional faculty, advanced laboratory facilities, and total devotion by the university administration, makes APSU the perfect partner for VSCC in their desire to provide the best possible training for students. APSU shares and rigorously supports VSCC's vision for support of each student and for industry's training needs.

APSU's involvement in this collaboration will be to provide students graduating from VSCC a direct path to furthering their education through an articulation from the VSCC associate degree into the APSU baccalaureate degree in Mechatronics to further enhance the Mechatronics-To-Jobs (M-2-J) initiative. APSU will offer the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> year of the bachelors degree program in a format that will be conducive to individuals with an AAS degree that choose to enter the workforce while continuing their education, and for those located a significant distance from the APSU Clarksville Campus. We will also serve students in Robertson County with our AAS degree in Mechatronics.

**College of Science and Mathematics**



APSU is committed to participating in the M-2-J project to Work Based Learning and help prepare skilled workers, at various levels of education, by engaging in the following activities over the next two and a half years and beyond:

- Both VSCC and APSU are prepared to offer degrees based on the Siemens Mechatronics Format. Further, the Allen Bradley format will be included in training activities to provide the best possible knowledge base for students training in the field of Mechatronics. An articulation will exist between the VSCC - AAS Mechatronics program and the APSU - BS Mechatronics program where students graduating from VSCC will have a direct articulation into the APSU BS degree. This articulation will be accomplished with minimal loss in accepted course transfer. APSU will rigorously follow the Siemens training format, as will VSCC. APSU will send up to four faculty for training in Germany where levels two and three Siemens training are provided. Each APSU faculty sent for training will be required to certify in Siemens level three which is required for the baccalaureate level of Siemens training. APSU will devote all resources necessary to provide the best possible training for students. Upon completion of the BS degree in Mechatronics, APSU will work directly with students and industry to actively seek employment for each graduate from the Siemens based degree through a viable articulation from education to employment arrangement to be developed with regional industry.
- APSU will assign John Byrd - Chair for Engineering Technology, and/or Dr. Jaime Taylor - Dean for the College of Science and Mathematics to actively represent the university and to serve as active members of the project steering committee. Both representatives have a vast knowledge of science and engineering that makes them viable representatives for this project.
- The Engineering Technology department at APSU is actively involved in working with industry to continue a path to paid internships, as has been the case since the beginning of the Engineering Technology major. Credit for internships is based on guidelines set by ETAC of ABET - the accrediting agency for the Engineering Technology major. Although the Mechatronics concentration has not been in place long enough to be accredited, all other concentrations but one, Mechanical Engineering Technology which is also a new concentration within the department, are ETAC of ABET accredited and the Mechatronics concentration will follow the standards set by ETAC of ABET leading to eventual accreditation.
- Program outcomes will follow the ETAC of ABET requirements. Outcome development and monitoring is rigorous and one of the measurements set by ABET for accreditation. An Industrial Advisory Board (I.A.B.) for the Engineering Technology major actively reviews all course development, implementation, and training activities to assure that the

#### **College of Science and Mathematics**



department is meeting the standards required by both the degree accrediting agency and industry. Program tweaking is constant as the I.A.B. indicates that industry needs have changed.

- As mentioned, the Engineering Technology department works directly with students for job placement. APSU provides assistance in creating resumes and in locating employers who are seeking additional employees. In many instances, regional industry has provided job opportunities for students even when the industry offering the job opportunity was not actively seeking additions to their workforce. This is the result of tireless efforts by the Engineering Technology department to help graduating students, or students attempting completion of the degree, find a viable job after or during degree completion.
- APSU provides multiple Career Fairs per year in order to further support graduating students. In most cases, the graduating student will join the regional workforce.
- APSU will actively promote this project to regional industry to enhance both economic and workforce development. This will be accomplished by consulting with industry management, electronic media, and mailings. APSU will continue these forms of active project promotion and will constantly seek new and better means of promotion.

Thank you for any consideration you give to the project. APSU sees this as an opportunity to help students, increase economic development, and to greatly enhance the Mechatronics workforce in the region supported by both institutions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Jaime R. Taylor'.

Jaime R. Taylor, Dean  
APSU College of Science and Mathematics

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'John L. Byrd'.

John L. Byrd, Chair  
APSU Department of Engineering Technology

**College of Science and Mathematics**



# TENNESSEE COLLEGE OF APPLIED TECHNOLOGY

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## HARTSVILLE

716 McMurry Boulevard East, Hartsville, TN 37074  
Phone (615) 374-2147 FAX (615) 374-2149 <http://www.tcathartsville.edu>

July 20, 2016

Attn. Curt Johnston  
Tennessee Higher Education Commission  
404 James Robertson Parkway, Suite 1900  
Nashville, TN 37243-0830

RE: LEAP 2.0 Mechatronics-To-Jobs (M-2-J) Grant Application

Dear Mr. Johnston:

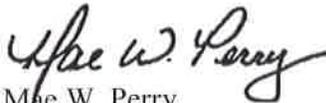
Tennessee College of Applied Technology Hartsville (TCATH) would like to confirm our support and participation in the Mechatronics-To-Jobs (M-2-J) project proposed by the North Tennessee Workforce Board, Volunteer State Community College and partnering organizations. The project will assist in establishing a robust mechatronics program accessible to Sumner, Wilson, Macon, Trousdale and Robertson county residents who are unemployed or under employed. The M-2-J project would pursue the goals of increasing the supply of skilled employees in advanced manufacturing, and creating a local collaborative that would connect education, economic development and workforce development to pave a pathway from training to employment.

There were 2600 job openings including related positions advertised online in Tennessee on July 19, 2016. For 50 years, our role as a technical education provider is about helping students and workers of all ages fulfill their skill performance potential. TCATH is a training facility which is designed to meet industry standards through training that simulates the occupational environment found in potential places of employment of the students. We accomplish this with workforce development training that is relevant to the work place with employable skills and work ethics.

Tennessee College of Applied Technology Hartsville is committed to participating in the M-2-J Project to develop Work Based Learning and help prepare skilled workers by engaging in the following activities over the next two-and-a-half years and beyond:

- Provide input to the program design and curriculum to better tailor needed job skills
- Assign a company representative to serve on the project steering committee
- Share resources, relevant data on job openings, job descriptions, and workforce assessments to identify the necessary skills and competencies needed by workers.
- Participate as an instrumental partner in developing and implementing a paid internship program that awards academic credit to students pursuing an advanced manufacturing career
- Provide information to measure program outcomes.
- Provide opportunities for students who complete the program to interview for job openings at our organization
- Participate in Career Fairs on the college campus held 1-2 times annually

Sincerely,



Mae W. Perry

Director



324 FREEHILL ROAD  
HENDERSONVILLE, TN 37075

PH: (615) 826-6004  
FAX: (615) 826-6262  
E-M: info@bettymachine.com

July 20, 2016

Mr. Curt Johnston  
**Tennessee Higher Education Commission**  
404 James Robertson Parkway, Suite 1900  
Nashville, TN 37243-0830

RE: LEAP 2.0 Mechatronics-To-Jobs (M-2-J) Grant Application

Dear Mr. Johnston:

Betty Machine Company Inc. would like to confirm our support and participation in the Mechatronics-To-Jobs (M-2-J) project proposed by the North Tennessee Workforce Board, Volunteer State Community College and partnering organizations. The project will assist in establishing a robust mechatronics program accessible to Sumner, Wilson, Macon, Trousdale and Robertson county residents who are unemployed or under employed. The M-2-J project would pursue the goals of increasing the supply of skilled employees in advanced manufacturing, and creating a local collaborative that would connect education, economic development and workforce development to pave a pathway from training to employment.

Betty Machine Company machines precision machine components for a wide range of industries including automotive, heavy trucking and various other commercial sectors. We currently produce components for North America, Mexico, and Europe and the finished assemblies that our components go into are used throughout the world. Just like other manufacturing industries, improvements in technology have had a dramatic impact on our business. New equipment is virtually always computer controlled and computer programmed automation is a given for new processes as well as continual improvement projects within the facility. In our local area we are desperately short of people who possess the skills required to succeed in our current environment, much less the environment of tomorrow. The proposed M-2-J project will be a terrific aid in closing the current gap between industry needs and available work force skills. Additionally, I would expect that with the ongoing collaboration between industry, education, economic development and workforce development, the M-2-J program will provide the conduit for identifying new skill requirements in the workforce and adjusting the program to meet those needs.

Betty Machine Company is committed to participating in the M-2-J Project to develop Work Based Learning and help prepare skilled workers by engaging in the following activities over the next two-and-a-half years and beyond:

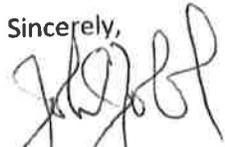
- Provide input to the program design and curriculum to better tailor needed job skills
- Assign a company representative to serve on the project steering committee
- Share resources, relevant data on job openings, job descriptions, and workforce assessments to identify the necessary skills and competencies needed by workers

Mr. Curt Johnston  
Tennessee Higher Education Commission  
Page Two

- Participate as an instrumental partner in developing and implementing a paid internship program that awards academic credit to students pursuing an advanced manufacturing career
- Provide information to measure program outcomes.
- Provide opportunities for students who complete the program to interview for job openings at our organization
- Participate in Career Fairs on the college campus held 1-2 times annually

We look forward to our participation in such a worthwhile project.

Sincerely,



John Zobl  
President



July 20, 2016

Attn. Curt Johnston  
Tennessee Higher Education Commission  
404 James Robertson Parkway, Suite 1900  
Nashville, TN 37243-0830

RE: LEAP 2.0 Mechatronics-To-Jobs (M-2-J) Grant Application

Dear Mr. Johnston:

Aladdin Temp Rite would like to confirm our support and participation in the Mechatronics-To-Jobs (M-2-J) project proposed by the North Tennessee Workforce Board, Volunteer State Community College and partnering organizations. The project will assist in establishing a robust mechatronics program accessible to Sumner, Wilson, Macon, Trousdale and Robertson county residents who are unemployed or under employed. The M-2-J project would pursue the goals of increasing the supply of skilled employees in advanced manufacturing, and creating a local collaborative that would connect education, economic development and workforce development to pave a pathway from training to employment.

Aladdin Temp Rite is a manufacturer of meal delivery equipment for the Healthcare food service industry. Our company continues to invest in new equipment that requires skilled workers to effectively operate this equipment to its maximum potential. This M-2-J project will provide a stable supply of skilled workers that will be able to sustain our growth plans and provide replacement workers for our aging workforce. This will help give Aladdin Temp Rite the skilled workers needed to keep Aladdin manufacturing in this community for many years to come.



Aladdin Temp Rite is committed to participating in the M-2-J Project to develop Work Based Learning and help prepare skilled workers by engaging in the following activities over the next two-and-a-half years and beyond:

- Provide input to the program design and curriculum to better tailor needed job skills
- Assign a company representative to serve on the project steering committee
- Share resources, relevant data on job openings, job descriptions, and workforce assessments to identify the necessary skills and competencies needed by workers.
- Participate as an instrumental partner in developing and implementing a paid internship program that awards academic credit to students pursuing an advanced manufacturing career
- Provide information to measure program outcomes.
- Provide opportunities for students who complete the program to interview for job openings at our organization
- Participate in Career Fairs on the college campus held 1-2 times annually

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tim Altizer".

Tim Altizer

Vice President, Operations



YAPP USA Automotive Systems, Inc.  
300 ABC Blvd., Gallatin, TN 37066

**Date: July 19, 2016**

**Attn. Curt Johnston  
Tennessee Higher Education Commission  
404 James Robertson Parkway, Suite 1900  
Nashville, TN 37243-0830**

**RE: LEAP 2.0 Mechatronics-To-Jobs (M-2-J) Grant Application**

**Dear Mr. Johnston:**

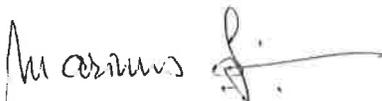
**YAPP USA Automotive Systems, Inc. would like to confirm our support and participation in the Mechatronics-To-Jobs (M-2-J) project proposed by the North Tennessee Workforce Board, Volunteer State Community College and partnering organizations. The project will assist in establishing a robust mechatronics program accessible to Sumner, Wilson, Macon, Trousdale and Robertson county residents who are unemployed or under employed. The M-2-J project would pursue the goals of increasing the supply of skilled employees in advanced manufacturing, and creating a local collaborative that would connect education, economic development and workforce development to pave a pathway from training to employment.**

**YAPP USA Automotive Systems, Inc. is a world class, Tier 1 automotive supplier specializing in design, engineering and manufacturing of automotive fuel system solutions. We employ approximately 375 team members from Sumner, Wilson, Macon, Trousdale and Robertson counties. In our day to day operations we face many challenges in the area of recruiting qualified/trained Maintenance and Process Technicians. We have well-paying job opportunities at our state of the art facility that we struggle to fill due to a lack of available talent. A robust mechatronics program in our geographical area would provide a pool of qualified talent to address our immediate and ongoing needs.**

**YAPP USA Automotive Systems, Inc. is committed to participating in the M-2-J Project to develop Work Based Learning and help prepare skilled workers by engaging in the following activities over the next two-and-a-half years and beyond:**

- **Provide input to the program design and curriculum to better tailor needed job skills**
- **Assign a company representative to serve on the project steering committee**
- **Share resources, relevant data on job openings, job descriptions, and workforce assessments to identify the necessary skills and competencies needed by workers.**
- **Participate as an instrumental partner in developing and implementing a paid internship program that awards academic credit to students pursuing an advanced manufacturing career**
- **Provide information to measure program outcomes.**
- **Provide opportunities for students who complete the program to interview for job openings at our organization**
- **Participate in Career Fairs on the college campus held 1-2 times annually**

**Sincerely,**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Marius Sipos", followed by a horizontal line extending to the right.

**Marius Sipos,  
President  
YAPP USA Automotive Systems, Inc.**



166 Molly Walton Drive, Hendersonville, Tennessee 37075

Date: July 22, 2016

Attn. Curt Johnston  
Tennessee Higher Education Commission  
404 James Robertson Parkway, Suite 1900  
Nashville, TN 37243-0830

RE: LEAP 2.0 Mechatronics-To-Jobs (M-2-J) Grant Application

Dear Mr. Johnston:

Novita Technologies would like to confirm our support and participation in the Volunteer State Community College and partnering organizations. The project will assist in establishing a robust mechatronics program accessible to Sumner, Wilson, Macon, Trousdale and Robertson county residents who are unemployed or under employed. The M-2-J project would pursue the goals of increasing the supply of skilled employees in advanced manufacturing, and creating a local collaborative that would connect education, economic development and workforce development to pave a pathway from training to employment.

Novita is a designer and manufacturer of automotive electronics circuits and as a result has a significant need for trained and skilled technicians to setup and service our computer driven manufacturing assembly lines. In addition we have CNC style lab equipment that needs similar support.

Novita is committed to participating in the M-2-J Project to develop Work Based Learning and help prepare skilled workers by engaging in the following activities over the next two-and-a-half years and beyond:

- Provide input to the program design and curriculum to better tailor needed job skills
- Assign a company representative to serve on the project steering committee
- Share resources, relevant data on job openings, job descriptions, and workforce assessments to identify the necessary skills and competencies needed by workers.
- Participate as an instrumental partner in developing and implementing a paid internship program that awards academic credit to students pursuing an advanced manufacturing career
- Provide information to measure program outcomes.
- Provide opportunities for students who complete the program to interview for job openings at our organization
- Participate in Career Fairs on the college campus held 1-2 times annually

Sincerely,



Mike Incorvaia

CEO



# Sumner County Board of Education

Del R. Phillips III, Ph.D.

Director of Schools

695 East Main Street Gallatin, TN 37066-2472

Phone: (615) 451-5200 Fax: (615) 451-5216

June 22, 2016

Attn. Curt Johnston

Tennessee Higher Education Commission

404 James Robertson Parkway, Suite 1900

Nashville, TN 37243-0830

RE: LEAP 2.0 Mechatronics-To-Jobs (M-2-J) Grant Application

Dear Mr. Johnston:

Sumner County Schools would like to confirm our support and participation in the Mechatronics-To-Jobs (M-2-J) project proposed by the North Tennessee Workforce Board, Volunteer State Community College and partnering organizations. The project will assist in establishing a robust mechatronics program accessible to Sumner, Wilson, Macon, Trousdale and Robertson county residents who are unemployed or under employed. The M-2-J project would pursue the goals of increasing the supply of skilled employees in advanced manufacturing, and creating a local collaborative that would connect education, economic development and workforce development to pave a pathway from training to employment.

Sumner County Schools would benefit from this secondary and postsecondary alignment opportunity for Mechatronics students. This career area also aligns with our local labor market data for high-wage, high-skill and high-demand jobs. We are committed to participating in the M-2-J Project to develop Work Based Learning and help prepare skilled workers by engaging in the following activities over the next two-and-a-half years and beyond to provide input to the program design and curriculum to better tailor needed job skills.

Sincerely,

Del R. Phillips III, PhD

Director of Schools

Sumner County Schools

*Board of Education Members*

*Alice Bachman - Tim Brewer - David A. Brown - Patricia Brown - Jeff Cordell - Beth Cox - Andy Daniels - Dr. Nancy Glover - Glen Gregory - Tammy Hayes - Ted Wise*

# TROUSDALE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

*Clint Satterfield, Director of Schools*

www.tcschools.org

Date: July 20, 2016

Attn. Curt Johnston  
Tennessee Higher Education Commission  
404 James Robertson Parkway, Suite 1900  
Nashville, TN 37243-0830

RE: LEAP 2.0 Mechatronics-To-Jobs (M-2-J) Grant Application

Dear Mr. Johnston:

Trousdale County Schools would like to confirm our support and participation in the Mechatronics-To-Jobs (M-2-J) project proposed by the North Tennessee Workforce Board, Volunteer State Community College and partnering organizations. The project will assist in establishing a robust mechatronics program accessible to Sumner, Wilson, Macon, Trousdale and Robertson county high school students preparing to enter college, and offer a pathway through dual enrollment for early credit which will extend to high schools located in the above-stated counties. The M-2-J project would pursue the goals of increasing the supply of skilled employees in advanced manufacturing, and creating a local collaborative that would connect education, economic development and workforce development to pave a pathway from training to employment.

Trousdale County Schools is committed to participating in the M-2-J Project to help prepare youth to become skilled workers by engaging in the following activities over the next two-and-a-half years and beyond:

- Provide information to current students who may be interested in pursuing dual enrollment, especially in a mechatronics program

- Encourage students to participate in any job-shadowing opportunities offered by partnering industries
- Participate in Volunteer State's annual Career Expo as well as encourage students to participate in other college preparatory events held at area post-secondary institutions

Postsecondary success is important to Trousdale County as we prepare students for their future. Having a Mechatronics-to-jobs program at Volunteer State Community College would enhance our dual enrollment opportunities and provide students a richer experience in mechatronics and the advance manufacturing field.

Trousdale County fully supports North Tennessee Workforce Board, Volunteer State Community College and partnering organizations in their work to establish a robust mechatronics program and dual enrollment opportunities to local high schools.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Cothron". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and a long, sweeping underline.

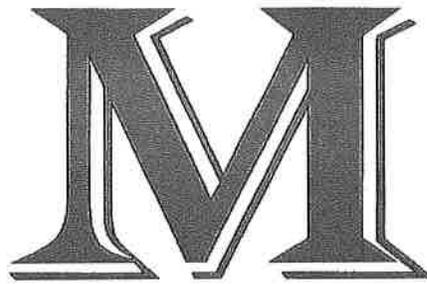
Jennifer Cothron

CTE Director/Supervisor

Trousdale County Schools

(615) 374-2193 Fax (615) 374-1108  
103 Lock Six Road Hartsville, Tennessee 37074

**Casey Brawner**  
*School Nursing Supervisor*  
**Candace Brown**  
*School Psychologist*  
**Shawn Carter**  
*Supervisor of Instruction*  
**Kathy Cothron**  
*Career and Technical*  
**Dawn Thompson**  
*Supervisor of Attendance*



**David Flynn**  
*Technology Director*  
**Cindy Gammons**  
*Federal Programs Director*  
**Cathy Stafford**  
*Special Education Supervisor*  
**Teresa Rush**  
*Food Services Supervisor*  
**Rita Wilburn**  
*Data Analyst*

**Macon County Schools**  
Tony Boles, Director of Schools

July 25, 2016

Attn. Curt Johnston  
Tennessee Higher Education Commission  
404 James Robertson Parkway, Suite 1900  
Nashville, TN 37243-0830

RE: LEAP 2.0 Mechatronics-To-Jobs (M-2-J) Grant Application

Dear Mr. Johnston:

Macon County School System would like to confirm our support and participation in the Mechatronics-To-Jobs (M-2-J) project proposed by the North Tennessee Workforce Board, Volunteer State Community College and partnering organizations. The project will assist in establishing a robust mechatronics program accessible to Sumner, Wilson, Macon, Trousdale and Robertson county high school students preparing to enter college and offer a pathway through dual enrollment for early credit which will extend to high schools located in the above-stated counties. The M-2-J project would pursue the goals of increasing the supply of skilled employees in advanced manufacturing, and creating a local collaborative that would connect education, economic development and workforce development to pave a pathway from training to employment.

*Inspiring and Empowering Students*

Macon County Board of Education, 501 College Street, Lafayette, TN 37083  
Phone: 615-666-2125 Fax: 615-666-7878 or 615-666-3280 Special Education: 615-666-2685

Macon County School System is committed to participating in the M-2-J Project to help prepare youth to become skilled workers by engaging in the following activities over the next two-and-a-half years and beyond:

- Provide information to current students who may be interested in pursuing dual enrollment, especially in a mechatronics program
- Provide information to measure program outcomes.
- Participate in Volunteer State's annual Career Expo as well as encourage students to participate in other college preparatory events held at area post-secondary institutions

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Tony Boles". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned to the right of the word "Sincerely,".

Tony Boles

Director Schools



# Lebanon Wilson County Chamber of Commerce

July 22, 2016

Attn. Curt Johnston  
Tennessee Higher Education Commission  
404 James Robertson Parkway, Suite 1900  
Nashville, TN 37243-0830



RE: LEAP 2.0 Mechatronics-To-Jobs (M-2-J) Grant Application

Dear Mr. Johnston:

The Lebanon Wilson County Chamber of Commerce would like to confirm our support and participation in the Mechatronics-To-Jobs (M-2-J) project proposed by the North Tennessee Workforce Board, Volunteer State Community College and partnering organizations. The project will assist in establishing a robust mechatronics program accessible to Sumner, Wilson, Macon, Trousdale and Robertson county residents who are unemployed or under employed. The M-2-J project would pursue the goals of increasing the supply of skilled employees in advanced manufacturing, and creating a local collaborative that would connect education, economic development and workforce development to pave a pathway from training to employment.

The Lebanon Wilson County Chamber of Commerce is committed to participating in the M-2-J Project to develop Work Based Learning and help prepare skilled workers by promoting the project to our business, industry and organizations that work with the unemployed or in economic/workforce development.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Melanie Minter'.

**Melanie Minter**

President & CEO

Lebanon Wilson County Chamber of Commerce

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