



February 22, 2016

To: New Skills for Youth Grant Committee,

I am pleased to write this letter of support for Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction's application for the Skills for Youth Grant. We are acutely aware of the skills gap and the importance of students having the career information that can help them achieve their potentials and attain future success.

Nexen is an advanced manufacturer located in Northwest Wisconsin. We are a company of primarily machinists and engineers. We were founded in 1902, and were named business of the year for Northwest Wisconsin by Workforce Development. We have many of the highest paid jobs in our county.

We are in the Innovation Age. Technology has changed all the rules - for businesses, for careers, and for students. There are few of today's jobs for which a high school diploma is enough. Those jobs can be performed in other countries, or even automated if the technology is right.

The good news is that technology also creates many rewarding, high paying and available careers. The challenge is that K-12 students need to be aware of these careers, understand what they look like, and understand the k-12 and post-secondary classes they will need to take in order to be qualified for those careers.

In small town Wisconsin, we know our neighbors. We understand that the schools educate the sons and daughters of our employees, educate our future workforce, and are an important part of the fabric of our community. We have had active partnerships with our local schools for decades. Here is a brief summary of the types of things we do

- Classroom Presentation
- Education for Employment
- Teach In-Services
- Guidance Counselor In-Services
- Plant Tours
- Career Fairs
- Student Internships
- Scholarships
- Endowments
- Webster Education Foundation
- Equipment Donations
- Advisory Committees
- Equipment and Cash Donations
- Staff Training
- Job Shadowing
- STEPS for Girls
- First Lego League
- Tiger & Cardinal Manufacturing

There has never been a more critical time for us to prepare our youth for the future. According to former Secretary of Education Richard Riley:

*"60 percent of all new jobs in the 21st century will require skills possessed by only 20 percent of the current workforce. We are currently preparing students for jobs that don't yet exist using technologies that haven't yet been invented to solve problems we don't even know are problems yet."*

The Skills for Youth Grant has the foresight to attack this important issue, and Wisconsin is the just the state that can blaze the trail into the future.

Sincerely,

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

Jim Hasart  
Chief Operating Officer