

February 04, 2019

Mr. Luke Luther,

I am currently writing this letter to you as a token of my appreciation for the scholarship that is established by your organization. It is extremely rewarding to know that there are generous people and organizations that are willing to make this type of scholarship possible. It brings me great honor and pleasure being selected to receive this scholarship based on my academic achievements. As an adult learner, not only have my studies enhanced my knowledge, but has also helped myself to manage some of the situations that the world confronts us with. Overall this endeavor has helped make me a well-rounded person who can adapt quickly to help companies remain competitive.

My current major, Mechanical Engineering Technology, will give me the tools I need to further my current career. Currently, I hold the position of Quality Engineer for a local manufacturing company. In this position I have been exposed to how challenging the global market has become in the manufacturing sector and as such have decided to enhance my skill set to help improve the quality of the local workforce in this area. I originally started my career as a floor inspector and through hard work and dedication, have moved up the ladder to this current position.

An example of how I intend to utilize these new skills can be seen in the step forward in acquiring new cutting technology that I have played a role in with a previous employer. Through careful research, I was able to recommend the purchase of a new CMM that utilizes scanning technologies to acquire inspection data which is the newest technology used in CMM metrology.

With this technology, it was possible to reduce inspection times, increase the accuracy when measuring manufactured pieces, and also opened doors to inspection methods that was not previously possible. With the skills I have obtained through my education, I intend to continue taking on projects such as this to help ensure that American manufacturing can remain competitive in the new global manufacturing world we live in today.

The local Erie area has seen a decline in the manufacturing sector over the years (GE Transportation's withdrawal of locomotive production as an example) and many will point to the lack of skilled labor as one of the key reasons. Personally I used this reason to return to school, more recently continue on, and obtain an engineering degree. I feel as though I have been able to use these skills in a positive way already and would like to continue this trend to help bring manufacturing jobs back to the Erie region once again. Having great organizations such as yours in the area who are willing to support individuals such as myself in achieving these goals is just as important as having the skilled employees. On that note, I would like to say "Thank you" once again for supporting myself as by doing so you are also supporting Penn State Behrend and the surrounding community we all live in.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Richard J. Trenn". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'R' and 'T'.

Richard J. Trenn