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Nexen Group, Inc.  
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Webster, WI 54893  
715 866-4298

September 15, 2014

Craig Semingson, Superintendent  
Eleva-Strum Schools  
W23597 US 10  
Strum, WI 54770

Dear Craig:

Our company has been very engaged with our education partners in dealing with the skills gap. One of those partners is your school system, specifically your Tech-Ed Program (**Cardinal Mfg.**).

We know that Eleva-Strum is a small district with 617 students, of which 36 percent are on free and reduced lunch, and that budget dollars are tight. You are fortunate to have Craig Cegielski, an energized tech-ed teacher who believes in the potentials of youth.

Craig has achieved amazing results with the manufacturing company he set up within his classroom. He has essentially self-funded this program through the help of business partners and community members. He has fostered an atmosphere of excellence in his classroom. He not only develops precision machining, welding and other metalworking skills in his students, he also models and has high standards for their soft skills and professionalism.

Cardinal Manufacturing is the gold standard for tech-ed programs, and it was visited by over 50 other school districts last year. Craig has so much e-mail traffic that he answers it daily from 10:00 PM to midnight! What he is doing for Eleva-Strum could be a model for school districts across the country.

This matters to employers in Wisconsin and across the country; because those of us in advanced manufacturing are having a difficult time finding skilled talent. It is not uncommon for it to take a year or more to find a skilled CNC Machinist, CNC Programmer, or Manufacturing Engineer.

We know that Craig needs additional equipment to take his program up to the next level. We strongly believe in this program and want to help with its success. Nexen will match the first \$25,000 in funds that you raise between now and June 30, 2015. Additionally, Dan Conroy, our Vice President of Human Resources has personally pledged an additional \$12,500 of matching funds. **That's a total of \$37,500 of matching funds from Nexen.**

We commend you and your staff for your enthusiastic and dynamic approach to education. It is our privilege to be able to lend support to this exceptional program. We hope you can find generous partners to join us.

Kind Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Hutch Schilling", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Hutch Schilling  
President/Owner  
Nexen Group, Inc

cc: Craig Cegielski