

SOUTHWEST

TENNESSEE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

January 8, 2016

Dear Mr. Berry,

Your request for comment on our use of SMT was referred to me. As Executive Director of Workforce Development for Southwest Tennessee Community College I am happy to respond with three points.

First, you should know that we use SMT as the centerpiece of industrial machine training for continuing education classes and customized corporate training. When Southwest rolled out its continuing education class for Industrial Readiness Training (IRT) in 2012, we linked the SMT Level 1 Basic Mechanics Training with soft employability skills and presented the package to major manufacturers as part of the local economic development incentives for companies moving to Memphis. We are most proud to say that more than 1500 entry level employees have been trained on SMT. Those employees have worked for Electrolux, KTG, Blues City Brewery and many other manufacturers.

Second, experience has shown that the IRT-SMT combination often added an additional dollar or two to hourly wages. Over the years, we have added blueprint reading for entry level workers. Southwest uses SMT Level 2 almost exclusively with skilled incumbent workers through customized corporate training that is geared toward succession planning, promotions and cost savings. As an example, we currently use SMT with Unilever and Hershey. Our clients are very satisfied with the product and the skill retention of employees trained.

Finally, we applaud your plans to standardized SMT for college credit. That strategy is consistent with national trends and our own effort to create pathways from the non-credit continuing education classes to our credit based advanced integrated industrial technology (AIIT) and mechatronics curriculum. I hope you will keep us informed as your work with ACE progresses. SMT instruction material and assessment equipment are essential to our non-credit industrial training philosophy. We send best wishes as you take SMT to the next level.

Sincerely,

Naomi C. Earp
Executive Director
Workforce Development, Corporate Training & Continuing Education

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