Kondex Corporation has been involved in the School to Work (Youth Apprenticeship) program for 5+ years. This is a great opportunity for the students as they are learning a trade and it provides workplace skills including communication, problem solving, decision making, team building and the willingness and ability to learn in a work environment. The Youth Apprenticeship Manufacturing Skills Standards Checklist does a good job of summarizing the majority of job duties applicable to the manufacturing process. It is, however, broad enough that we are able to apply the required skills within our normal manufacturing job duties. Students are able to easily obtain the required 900 hours of the program.

Kondex plans to continue to bring in 1-2 students in the Manufacturing School to Work program each year as it is also a great opportunity to us as an employer. We have hired 60%+ of the STW students and it also allows our full-time associates the chance to mentor students that are interested in the manufacturing operations.

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I have been actively involved with the School to Work (Youth Apprenticeship) program since 2000 and have been extremely satisfied with the programs intention and formality. Thru the years we've seen higher than expected results from the students and how they have progressed throughout their time with us in growing in their job task as well as curriculum responsibilities. I feel that the State Checklist is a vital component to the success of the program and how the student can relate and tie the curriculum to a potential career. The checklist is clearly defined and does not take long to complete while covering many keys topics that reflect the students progress throughout the year.

The programs design also provides flexibility in deciding the hours students work throughout the year. This system allows it to be very user friendly in determining the work schedule and allows changes to be made with ease to both the school and employer. This allows the student to get enough hours in the workplace which is an important piece of the puzzle if this is going to be their choice as a career.

Peter Manowske Manowske Welding Corp. 821 South Military RD. Fond du Lac, WI 920-922-3340 T 920-922-3341 F www.manowskewelding.com At Mid-States Aluminum, we consider the school to work program a strong and robust process for bringing students into the manufacturing world of work.

The structure of the checklists which tie the theory of the classroom to on-the-job experience is important particularly for the students who are used to the structure of a classroom. This checklist also helps to guide our mentors in the areas needed to ensure students will have a clear link to classroom learning. The hours of the program are easily attained and at times are even too short due to the excitement and involvement of students in their work. At Mid-States we believe very strongly that the school to work program is an important and vital link to helping students learn about the world of work and we would feel the loss if it was no longer in existence.

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