We are writing this letter as an endorsement and as an active stakeholder in the Fleming College application for funding through the Skills Catalyst Fund.

The Northumberland Manufacturers' Association is a manufacturing member driven organization that has identified though our membership and broader region manufacturing base that there is an identified need for a workforce that can demonstrate forward thinking, manufacturing – specific skills and essential soft skills that are presently lacking in today's emerging labour force.

 The Skills Catalyst Fund – initiative from Fleming College will fill a skills gap recognized by the manufacturing sector. This program will give support to underrepresented groups (women and newcomers), to enter, adapt to and succeed in this sector, with the confidence that their newly acquired skills will provide them with the necessary competencies to achieve career success. This program will assist the manufacturers by drastically shortening the orientation process of each new hire and allow them to confidently employ one of these graduates. The program will also give each participant the opportunity to develop the behaviours and skill that support the manufacturers' ability to thrive in a competitive global economy. In addition the program has the added element of enhancing the leadership capacity of our current workforce.

We are confident that Fleming College has the expertise and passion to develop this training program and are committed to fully engaging with them in this process. Our commitment is to ensure the program design is relevant, the learning outcomes are accurate and that the experiential learning takes place within the manufacturing environment.

We look forward to a positive impact on labour market readiness should the college receive funding for this initiative. We also look forward to working closely with the college in all aspects of this training and in sharing the benefits of creating a more highly skilled workforce.

Yours truly,

Darlene Robertson
Executive Director