



Discover. Experience. Remember.

Scott Shelton
Director, Engineering & IT
Adams Group
2221 Murphy Court
North Port, FL 34289

Re: Support of Industrial Technology Program

To Whom It May Concern:

Please accept this letter as our support of the Industrial Technology Program at Reed-Custer High School. In today's economy, it is imperative that students and parents alike have the option to choose a path that is right for themselves and their families. As the cost of tuition continues to grow, and the pool of skilled labor continues to shrink, students from technical and trade programs are highly sought after to fill positions, positions that often meet or exceed a wage of that of their university counterparts. Additionally, in making this choice, the student walks into the workforce less burdened by debt created from student loans. While each option offers unique opportunities, such programs should remain available to the student to afford them a choice.

For example, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics for the May 2019 National Occupational Employment and Wage Estimates in the United States, the median income of a Teacher was \$48,040, whereas the median income of a Trade Worker was \$49,850. While you'll find no disparity in the wage example above, you will find one in the amount of student loan debt accumulated. Additionally, under the assumption that a student is financing his education at 4% over 10 years, there is a median savings of \$114,000 on education alone, not accounting for the additional two years of employment the trade school graduate will gain.

There will always be proponents and detractors on each side of the topic. However, we must provide for and allow the student a choice in their future, and supporting programs such as these at the JR/SR High School level is crucial.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Scott Shelton". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Scott Shelton