

# FERRIS STATE UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY

- I. **Introduction** - We would like to congratulate the state of Michigan, the MEDC, and the Big Rapids region on successfully competing with dozens of cities across the United States for this economic development opportunity. The investments being made by the automotive industry in lithium battery production signals the importance of this technology in the supply chain of the automotive industry.
- II. **University's Role in Economic Development Engagement** - Ferris State University endeavors to enhance the competitiveness of our community and state through:

**TALENT** – developing work-ready graduates in support of local and state needs.

**INNOVATION** – Research/Consulting to solve real-world problems with applied knowledge.

**COMMUNITY** – actively support economic development agencies and community leaders.

<https://www.aplu.org/library/higher-education-engagement-in-economic-development-foundations-for-strategy-and-practice/file>

These are the support activities the university is leveraging for project elephant and the support activities that we would provide to any economic development project in the region.

- III. **University's Role for the Project Elephant Economic Development Project**

**Talent: Identify Existing Academic Programs** - We have identified programs in manufacturing, welding, plastics, quality assurance, mechanical engineering technology, HVAC, automation and controls, project management, business administration, management, accounting, and leadership and supervision that align with the 2,350+ Gotion Jobs.

**Talent: Identify New Short Duration Certification Programs** - The short-term training certificate will be the MSSC Certified Production Worker, an existing industry certification that focuses on quality, safety, materials, and production fundamentals.

**Talent: Identify Grant Funding to Train a Local Workforce** - The MEDC TAT EV and Mobility grant specifically targets the training and retraining the Michigan workforce for the realities of a major shift in state manufacturing from internal combustion engine automobiles to Electric Vehicles. \$659,500 1<sup>st</sup> year award.

**Innovation: Develop a Regional Applied Research Center** - The MEDC TAT EV and Mobility grant includes money for Ferris State University to develop a Center for Battery Production and Testing. First, the center will curate a clearinghouse of expertise to develop the battery production and testing workforce within West Michigan. We will share this curriculum with partnering community colleges and sister universities.

The center will also focus on applied research areas essential to the safe production of lithium batteries, a key technology for the future of the automotive industry.

**Community: Collaboration with Community Stakeholders** - Meetings like tonight. The university is actively partnering with economic development and community leaders to support key economic development projects. I would be happy to answer any questions that you have.