

#2696

Chris Donigan
B. Braun Medical

Remarks for State Board Hearing on High School Reform

- Introduction of Christopher Donigan, Corporate Vice President for B. Braun Medical with North American headquarters located in Bethlehem PA
- B. Braun manufactures medical devices sold mainly in hospitals
- North American sales of \$1.25 billion and 6,000 employees with most involved in manufacturing
- 2,000 employees in state of PA and 7th largest employer in LV, 1100 at Allentown plant
- B. Braun has 70 plant worldwide, so we could manufacture anywhere, but we choose US because of its productive workforce
- Plants today are highly automated, so we need skilled workers
- Automation is the future
- We offer good pay and benefits, up to \$28/hour in factory for most highly skilled
- Today's High School graduates need further technical training or a college degree to qualify for a job at B. Braun
- We work with local Vo Tech's, Community Colleges and 4 Year Schools
- Need at a minimum math, written and verbal communication skills and problem solving skills
- We will test applicants for proficiency because for our hourly jobs we have Skill Based Pay, pay for skills, and must be able to learn new skills
- Flexibility and ability to learn are key, good work habits
- Sustainability in employment, education and adult learning are key
- Many students today are not prepared enough for either the working world or college

- Example, my wife works at Delaware Valley College and teaches Developmental English, the gap course between high school and freshman English, 35% of incoming Freshman have to take her class, students are not prepared
- Companies compete in a global economy, it is important that high schools keep raising standards over time to ensure our children are prepared and can compete
- Please consider High School reform to a way to better education and a better future