



JOSH MANDEL
TREASURER OF OHIO

March 24, 2014

Dear Citizen,

There is a quiet crisis upon us with a shortage of young Americans pursuing careers in manufacturing and the skilled trades, and in order to combat it and prosper as a country, we must work together to encourage young people to enter these fields. As Treasurer of Ohio, one of my main missions is to ensure strong economics and finances for the state, and in order to accomplish this goal we must have a next generation of Ohioans choosing to contribute to Ohio's economy by working in these important jobs.

With this in mind, I am writing to inform you about the Ohio Strong Award. The purpose of this award is to bring heightened pride and profile to men and women throughout our state who are excelling in careers in manufacturing and the skilled trades. These individuals should demonstrate an excellent work ethic, high integrity and a passion for what they do to contribute to our economy.

The Ohio Strong Award is intended to raise public awareness of Ohio's need for more dedicated men and women working in manufacturing and the skilled trades. If you know a worker within your organization who has gone above and beyond the call of duty or a teacher who has excelled in training Ohioans in these types of jobs, please fill out the nomination form and they will be considered for our Ohio Strong Award.

As baby boomers are retiring, I frequently hear about the shortage of welders, pipe-fitters, electricians, carpenters, machinists and other skilled tradesmen and women in many parts of Ohio. According to a recent Skills Gap Survey by the Manufacturing Institute, approximately 600,000 manufacturing jobs are unfilled nationally because employers can't find qualified workers.

At the same time, a Bureau of Labor Statistics study recently found that 48 percent of college graduates are working in jobs that don't require a four-year degree. As you read this today, there are young people throughout America who have four-year liberal arts degrees, thousands of dollars in debt, and are serving coffee at Starbucks or working part-time at the mall. I believe that many of these young people would have been better off with a two-year skilled trade education, technical education or apprenticeship training with actual skills to secure a well-paying job and many opportunities for upward mobility.

On the reverse side of this page is the Ohio Strong nomination form. I hope you will take a moment to fill out the form, include a short statement describing why someone you know is deserving of recognition and mail it to 30 East Broad Street, Floor 9, Columbus, Ohio 43215. Or you can fill out an electronic nomination form from our website ohiotreasurer.gov/ohiostrong and email it to ohiostrong@tos.ohio.gov. I also encourage you to share this form with your co-workers and ask them to nominate people they deem deserving of this award.

Thank you for joining me in recognizing these important laborers who help make Ohio Strong. My hope is that through this award, we can both showcase workers in these fields who are setting the example of excellence, as well as inspire the next generation of Ohioans to pursue careers in manufacturing and the skilled trades.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Josh Mandel".

Josh Mandel
Treasurer of Ohio

OHIO STRONG NOMINATION FORM



WAYS TO SUBMIT NOMINATIONS:

MAIL: Ohio Treasurer Josh Mandel
Ohio Strong Award
30 East Broad Street, 9th Floor
Columbus, Ohio 43215

EMAIL: ohiostrong@tos.ohio.gov

FAX: (614) 485-6863

WHO YOU ARE NOMINATING:

Please complete this box with the information of the person you are nominating for the award:



Full Name: _____

Title: _____

Business/Organization: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Work Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Email: _____

YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION:



Full Name: _____

Title: _____

Business/Organization: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Work Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Email: _____

Relationship to person being nominated: _____

REASON FOR NOMINATION:



Please enclose a statement, 250 words or less, on why the person you are nominating is deserving of the Ohio Strong Award.