

APOMA Seal09

October 14, 2010

John C. Souders Jr., Ph.D.
OP-TEC Director of Curriculum
PO Box 21689
Waco, TX 76702-2689

Dear Dr. Souders:

To be globally competitive and most importantly for national security, precision optics manufacturers in the United States need more highly trained and skilled technicians than ever. This is why APOMA is giving unanimous support for the OPT-TEC Precision Optics NSF grant that you are seeking.

APOMA represents the majority of optics manufacturing firms in the United States. Our interest is the advancement and expansion of precision optics manufacturing, technology, and metrology. The training and development of optical technicians is vital to our members -- and to our country, to enable us to be competitive.

Optical systems are used in defense, homeland security, nuclear fusion research, biomedical and other highly technical fields. Because these fields are so extensive and comprehensive, demand is extremely high for the crucial skills needed to manufacture the components and assemblies.

The development of curriculum, instructional materials, courses and AAS programs at colleges in Florida, New York, and Colorado will help us to be more competitive by improving training for our optical technicians. Our members will support the programs in each of these states, by loaning and/or donating equipment and/or providing internships for students to meet the requirements of the POT curriculum developed by this project. They will also act as advisors, adjunct faculty, and recruiters for these programs.

Thank you for your good work. We thoroughly endorse your grant application to the National Science Foundation.

Respectfully Yours,

Colin "Cody" Green
APOMA President