

Pat E. Sturdivant, Executive Director
Capital Area Workforce Development Board
5942 Six Forks Road
Raleigh, NC 27609

July 18, 2022

Dear Ms. Sturdivant,

The Sanford Area Growth Alliance, representing the interests of business in Sanford, Broadway, and Lee County since 1938, is pleased to nominate Mr. Jerry Pedley, President at Mertek Solutions Inc. for appointment to the Capital Area Workforce Development Board.

Born on a dairy farm in Iowa, Pedley began his manufacturing career in 1971 working for Doerfer Corporation in Chicago. In 1990, he started his own automation company, Electro-Mechanical Specialties (EMS), in Sanford, North Carolina. Pedley sold EMS to Meikle Automation in 2002 and repurchased company assets in 2009, creating Mertek Solutions, named for his father Merle.

Today, with over 45 employees, Mertek has grown to become the go-to company for the design and manufacturing of automated assembly and test equipment for all types of manufacturing companies. Mertek builds the robots that manufacture, test, assemble and pack many of the products you use today. Many items that aren't necessarily "Made in Sanford" have their roots here because of robotic equipment from Mertek. Many jobs, which would otherwise have moved overseas to lower cost labor areas have stayed in the US because of the significant efficiencies and productivity improvements brought about by automation and robotic improvements by companies like Mertek.

Pedley is a staunch advocate for local education, serving on advisory boards with Lee County Schools and Central Carolina Community College. Mertek supports hands-on STEM education efforts, apprenticeships, internships, the National Academy Foundation, and supports education to help grow the high-tech opportunities of the future.

In 2017, Business North Carolina, named Jerry Pedley its, Small Business Person of the Year. Mertek Solutions, Inc is a private investor and member of the Sanford Area Growth Alliance.

If you have questions about this nomination for appointment of membership, please feel free to contact me directly.

Sincerely,



Jimmy Randolph, CEO
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