

The CAWS program was a great experience for me as a teacher. I will be able to explain to the children real life experiences as part of the hiring experience through Epsco. Also, I will be able to explain some of the programs offered at Wallace State Community College. At Wallace, I visited the success coaches, Student services, Business, Math, Nursing, Drafting, and Culinary.

At Epsco, I learned the ins and outs of the hiring process. They are one of six hiring companies in Cullman. When you go in to fill out your application, you have to show them your high school diploma, GED or high school transcripts. Once they have copied that information, they put you on a computer to fill out your application. They upload the application to their site. Once you have your application complete, they will interview you that day. When they find you a job, you are then drug tested. If you fail the drug test you have to pay the \$25.00 for the test and they do not hire you. There are only a few jobs that they can hire you for without a degree one of which is Servpro. If they are going to hire you for Rehau, Tropre, or Yutaka, you have to pass a math test as part of the process. They ask for the applicants to call twice a week to be put on the call list to be assigned to a job. They hired about 8 people in the two days that I was there.

A couple of hints are listed below in order to get hired for a job. You should go in to the business alone. You should be prepared to stay and complete all information that you need. You should be dressed nicely. This company may give you a job that you can go to the same day so be prepared.

At Wallace State Community College I learned that they have several different certificate programs. The machine tool building has a certificate program. They said they had 4 jobs for every one graduate. They need more students in their program. They learn to make parts. One of the parts I saw them making was door hinges. They learn to put holes in parts that are in the correct place and the correct size. Also, they make lots of parts to put together. This program had all males but females are welcome.

The second certificate program that I visited was cosmetology. They have some facial techniques that they learn. They learn to cut, color and style hair. They also do manicures and pedicures. They make appointments on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursdays. They do charge but it is cheaper than most places. They are trying to add a 2 year cosmetology degree also. Now it is just a certificate program. Having a 2 year degree would help people that want to own their own business. The students had to draw plans on how they wanted their business to look. In the cosmetology building they have to know how to mix ingredients together so they need to understand ratios. They may be mixing chemicals for cleaning or for hair colors. They also need to know what a half inch is or inch in order to cut hair.

The drafting department has a choice of a certificate program or a degree. Most of their students now are high school students that are dual enrolled. They have a grant that is paying for their classes to get their degree. They learn to draw house plans or other objects using a CAD program. Some of the students in this program have partnered with the cosmetology department to draw their saloon plans for them in their program. Most of these students have a job by the time they graduate making \$40,000 plus.

The nursing building is awesome. They have study corals that students sit at tables to study but they can write on the walls like it is a white board. The building has a lab that looks just like a hospital ICU unit. They have dummies in the rooms for babies to older people. The dummies are controlled from a room with a computer and monitor so the teachers can see what

the nursing students do. The dummies can talk, they tell you what is wrong and they will either live or die as you are treating them. They also have dummies that give birth. The nursing students are recorded while they are treating the patient. When they are finished with the lab, they watch the video and critique what happened when they were treating the patient. They hope to get a helicopter pad later.

The business building offers 6 different programs according to if you want business degree or accounting. They have lots of choices. The electronics department had robots that you learn to fix and operate. They also have programming to learn how to open and shut a garage door to how to control a roller coaster.

Wallace offers success coaching as well as advisors. The success coaches are funded by a grant at this time. The coaches are assigned to students that have to take a remedial class so they have someone to talk to about grades, classes and life. These coaches see their students about twice a month to find out what is happening with college. They are there for the students but are not their advisor. The students also have an advisor to help with scheduling so they have everything they need for their degree. Wallace will also help people fill out their FASFA papers for grant money.

The experience was great. I gained knowledge about hiring, expectations, certificates and degrees. I learned a multitude of ways in which I can apply real world circumstances to the math that I teach in the classroom. For example, in cosmetology they have to find out how much water to mix the chemicals to clean. I observed people using decimals to measure and make sure parts fit into the spec code. If they do not fit they have to remake the part. Thank you for allowing me to experience math in everyday workplace situations. Overall, it was a wonderful, learning experience for myself and one that I will be sure to pass on to my students.