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C.A.W.S. Educator Exchange Program
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I am the engineering instructor at Cullman Area Career Center, and this position requires a minimum of sixteen hours of technical update each year. This requirement is to insure that the instruction given in the classroom is not dated, but rather up to date and cutting edge technology. The CAWS Educator Exchange program has helped to fill this requirement for the 2014-2015 school year. I was blessed to be chosen to job shadow at Alabama Cullman Yutaka Technologies, LLC (ACYT).

My experience at ACYT was exceptional. I was very well received and the staff and associates there were very courteous and generous with their time. My week was broken into various time increments to be spent with each of the departments at ACYT. I was allowed to observe every department from Human Resources to Material Handling and everything between. Kevin Willouby did an outstanding job of setting up my schedule. During the first part of the week, I observed and was educated from a production perspective on the many processes at ACYT. The last two days were spent with engineering to get their perspective on the various processes.

The most fascinating observation was, without a doubt, the torque converter line. This line has many, many various processes within it. Some of the processes are, to some degree, common place. Other processes performed on the torque converter line are cutting edge and are proprietary information. Because of the amount of proprietary information and patent pending processes, I was not allowed to take pictures. However, everyone there was more than willing to answer any of my questions. I was given free

range while at ACYT, and was allowed to view, question, and even participate in any part of the process I was interested in.

I applaud CAWS for creating the Educator Exchange program, and I am thankful for the industries around our community that are willing to allow educators to come in and observe what they do. This experience will no doubt play a vital role in my classroom, and in the shaping of young peoples' lives. I was not only blessed with the opportunity to observe and ask questions, but I now have other resources, in the form of classroom speakers, to help connect my students to industry and the real world.