

WALLACE STATE

HANCEVILLE

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EDUCATING A COMPETITIVE ALABAMA WORKFORCE,
 TRANSFORMING LIVES AND COMMUNITIES

Wallace State Community College in Hanceville is the region's one-stop source for education and workforce development, providing customized training for business and industry, adult and continuing education, short term skills training, comprehensive career services that connect people to jobs, and terminal and transferable associate degrees and diplomas in a wide variety of academic, health and technical fields. Wallace State is a pacesetter for innovative approaches to teaching and learning, and for delivering exceptional service. Take advantage of our vast network of academic and workforce development programs and partnerships, and discover how we are transforming our region one life at a time.



A person wearing a light blue button-down shirt is reading a newspaper. Their hands are visible, holding the paper open. They are wearing glasses, and the top of the glasses is visible at the top of the frame. The background is a soft-focus view of the newspaper's text.

CAWS

GULLMAN AREA WORKFORCE SOLUTIONS

Linking People To Careers

**A Job Resource For The
Cullman Area**

August 25, 2009

Ads in the CAWS section also appear on The Cullman Times website at:
CullmanTimes.com

CAWS Keeping it Real Program to Begin 4th Year

This highly successful program will begin its 4th year in area high schools in Cullman County. The *Keeping it Real* program has been described as a game of life for 9th grade students, giving them the opportunity to experience life as a 25 year old, providing the primary support of their household. Students are assigned a pretend occupation and a family situation. They learn what is involved in living on a budget and how education will affect their potential income levels. Students learn the value of staying in school and planning for their future.

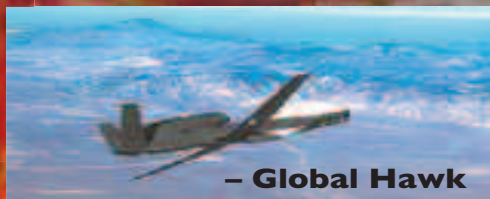
This year, new display boards have been purchased for the program paid in part by the City of Cullman and CAWACO RC&D funds. A spinning wheel has also been purchased for the "That's Life booth" adding an additional element of fun for the students as the spinner points to actual real life events.

The first Keeping it Real of the 2009-2010 school year will be at Vinemont High School on September 1&2; followed by Holly Pond High on September 29&30. If you would like to volunteer to help with this exciting program or to schedule your high school; please call Tanya Shearer at 352-8143

CAWS participates in Cullman County Schools' Leadership Academy

On July 15, 2009, members of CAWS participated in the Community and Family Session of the Cullman County Schools Leadership Academy. The event was held at the Wellness Center and was attended by approximately 56 educators from Cullman County Schools. Presentations were made by: Judy Bradford, president of CAWS, Peggy Smith and Dale Greer of the Cullman Economic Development office and Dan Plank of REHAU. Participants toured the five Industrial Parks in Cullman and learned about the development of Industry in Cullman. Those in attendance learned about the importance of education in the recruitment of industry and the many opportunities available to students in local industry.

AXSYS TECHNOLOGIES



- Global Hawk



- EKV Program

Axsys Technologies, Inc., Precision Machined Products, also known as Speedring, LLC, has been producing hardware for the space and defense markets since the beginning of space flight. The company, originally located in Detroit, was founded in 1947 by James R. Schiller. In 1967 Mr. Schiller moved his Corporate Offices, along with a sizeable manufacturing operation to Cullman. Since that time Axsys has been involved in some of the most visible, high national priority space and defense programs of the last 50 years. These include programs such as Polaris, Peacekeeper, Trident, Minuteman, Apollo, Defense Support Program, Galileo, Space Shuttle and (more recently) LANTIRN, F/A-22, IFTS, M1A2, Bradley, Mars Explorer, Exo-atmospheric Kill Vehicle (EKV) and several National Missile Defense programs.

Axsys also manufactures guidance components for the navigation systems for ICBM upgrades; structural components for commercial and defense satellites; gimbals and housings for targeting and reconnaissance pods (both fixed wing and rotary aircraft); exotic material components for nuclear reactors; heatsinks for thermal stability on critical fighter/attack aircraft avionics and flat metal mirrors for target acquisition on main battle tanks and light armored vehicles.

In 2004 the Alabama Technology Network and the Business Council of Alabama named Axsys Technologies PMP the Alabama Medium-Sized Manufacturer of the Year. In 2008 Axsys was chosen as one of eight Alabama companies to receive the Governor's Trade Excellence Award.

CURRENT AXSYS PMP EMPLOYEE STATISTICS

Axsys PMP currently employs over 230 full-time employees in a variety of positions aimed at supporting our customer commitments. Our average length of service for all employees is 17 years. Approximately 33% of our workforce have been with the Company 25 or more years. Axsys jobs range from shop-floor manufacturing and support positions to engineering, programming, sales/contracts, finance, administrative, clerical and supervision/management positions. All positions require a High School Diploma or GED Certificate and most manufacturing positions also require job specific certification from a post-secondary Technical/Vocational program. Certain professional or management careers may require a 4-year college degree.

Typical Axsys hourly manufacturing employee total compensation package is:

Base Wages for a typical hourly manufacturing employee	\$ 47,135.00
Benefits Package (including Health Insurance, Life and Disability Insurance, Vacations, Holidays, Retirement, etc.)	\$ 20,410.00
Total Compensation Package (Effective January 2009)	\$ 67,545.00

Remember, this is a typical average base compensation amount for the Axsys manufacturing workforce. It does not include any shift premium pay or overtime. It also does not include mandated benefits (social security taxes, worker's compensation, state/federal unemployment compensation taxes, etc.) that all employers are required by law to provide.

APPLICATION PROCESS FOR EMPLOYMENT AT AXSYS PMP

Axsys Technologies PMP lists virtually all job openings with the Alabama Career Center System located at Wallace State Community College in Hanceville, Alabama (256) 734-4911 and on the Axsys company website at www.axsys.com and the Alabama JobLink website at <https://joblink.alabama.gov>. We also place advertisements for positions in local and regional newspapers.

Resumes may be emailed to Axsys at hr-cullman@axsys.com or sent via regular mail to Axsys Technologies, Inc. - Human Resources Department - PO Box 1588 - Cullman, AL 35056.



WALLACE STATE NORTH ALABAMA BEST

Welcome to North Alabama BEST 2009!

BEST is a non-profit, volunteer based organization whose mission is to inspire students to pursue careers in engineering, science, and technology through participation in sports-like science and engineering-based robotics competition. NORTH ALABAMA BEST is a local hub based on the campus of Wallace State Community College.

Dates for BEST 2009

- September 19th - BEST KICK OFF
- October 18th - MALL DAY
- October 31st - GAME DAY

For more information or to join the BEST Competition contact:
philip.cleveland@wallacestate.edu
 or 256.352.8229

BEST Schools

All county, city and private schools from the following counties are eligible to participate:

Cullman, Blount, Walker, Marion, Lamar, Fayette, Etowah and Marshall.



AUT

AUTOMOTIVE MANUFACTURING TECHNOLOGY

associate degree

The Automotive Manufacturing Technology degree at Wallace State Community College is designed to prepare students for employment and advancement in the fast growing field of automotive manufacturing. Positions exist both in the automobile manufacturing plants and in the many supplier organizations statewide.

multi-craft technician

The Multi-Craft Technician is responsible for setup, installation, troubleshooting, repair, and testing of complex mechanical, electrical, and robotic equipment. The average full-time annual wage for a Multi-Craft Technician is \$27,000-\$51,500*

scholarships available

For more information on Automotive Manufacturing Technology at Wallace State, contact Joe Hendrix at 256/352-8134 or joe.hendrix@wallacestate.edu

program requirements

Students must have a high school diploma or GED to enter the AUT program.

degree requirements

Students completing the AUT degree will complete 75 semester hours.

courses

Students are required to complete courses in Safety and Lean Manufacturing, Electronics, Programmable Logic Controllers (PLC), Industrial Sensors, Blue Print Reading, Hydraulic and Pneumatics, Industrial Controls, Machining, Robotics, Welding and other technical courses.

career opportunities

Students completing the AUT degree may seek employment with companies such as Honda, Hyundai, International Diesel, Mercedes, Toyota, or the more than 510 automotive suppliers located in the state of Alabama.



www.carcam.org

WALLACE STATE HANCEVILLE



*This material is based upon work supported by the National Science Foundation under Grant No. DUE-091326.
 *Data received from the Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, Occupational Outlook Handbook, 2006-2007 edition and in Demand, Careers in Advanced Manufacturing, Issue 3.

Congratulations to National Welding Champion, Joey Foster

Joey Foster, a Welding student at Wallace State was recently selected as 1st Place winner in the National Schools USA Welding Competition. Joey represented Alabama in the competition with 36 states that took place in Kansas City, Missouri in June. Joey plans to continue his education this fall and become an American Welding Society Certified Welding Inspector and work as a lab assistant at Wallace State. According to his instructor, Jim Thompson, "Joey has already been offered numerous excellent jobs in our area and out of state as well. This young man has a great future ahead in the field of welding."

Welding Careers

According to Jim Thompson, Welding Instructor at Wallace State, "Qualified welders are always in demand even in challenging economic times." Qualified Welders can expect to start at \$30,000 to \$80,000 per year, depending on their skills and the area of the country in which they live. In recent years there has also been an increase in the number of women going into the field of welding.

There are many different types of welding, including arc, resistance and gas welding. A welder possessing numerous skill sets as well as problem solving skills will always be in demand.

Wallace State currently has a four semester program in Welding available. High school students can also begin to study welding at the Cullman Area Career Center and at other high school career technical centers in Wallace State's service area.

Industry Terminology

Kaisen: Is a term that means to continuously evaluate and improve the process.

Programmable Logic Controller: Ruggedized, micro-processor-based system which provides factory or plant automation by monitoring and controlling sensors and actuators in real time. A PLC may tell a robot suction cup when to activate and deactivate the air it uses to move something, or it may tell a conveyor when and how far to move.

Trinity Concept: The combination of teamwork, communication, critical thinking/problem solving skills that are used in today's industry.

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(256) 352-8324
www.atn.org

September Training - Enroll Today

Sept. 8 - 11	OSHA 30 Hour Cullman Chamber of Commerce	\$495.00
Sept. 11	Forklift Train-the-Trainer Wallace State Community College	\$195.00
Sept. 17	HAZWOPER 8 Hour Refresher Wallace State Community College	\$195.00
Sept. 21-25	HAZWOPER 40 Hour Wallace State Community College	\$695.00

To register online, visit www.atn.org/training

Virginia Teachers Visit REHAU

Three teachers from Loudoun County, Virginia recently spent five days at REHAU Incorporated as part of “The Teachers in Industry Program” through the Loudoun Business Education Collaborative (LBEC).

Katrina Owens, Laura Noselli and Conrad Varblow began their REHAU experience by spending two days at the Corporate Headquarters in Virginia and then three days at the Cullman plant. The program is very similar to the CAWS program and the main focus is to partner industry and educators. By giving teachers experience working in industry; they become aware of industry’s needs for a qualified workforce and the many opportunities available to students today.

The teacher’s comments reflect their excitement about the program and lessons that they will carry back to their students.

“Communication is the key and students need to communicate effectively. It is important to gain leadership skills, but is also important to gain “group” skills. You may not always be the leader in a group, so a student needs to learn to be a good group member.”

Katrina Owens
Technology Education Teacher
Freedom High School

“The thing that I took away from my experience is what I call “The Trinity Concept”: problem solving/ critical thinking, communication and teamwork are at the heart of business regardless of what the business does.”

Laura Noselli
English Teacher
Briar Woods H.S.

The visit changed the way I will structure some classroom activities. I will build more activities into the classroom that require team-based problem solving and presentation. People must be able to communicate and think on their own to solve problems. No one works alone, as people are typically on multiple teams, working in multiple roles.”

Conrad Varblow
Physics Teacher
Freedom H.S.

“Programs similar to the CAWS program are developing all over the country. The need to develop a well trained and qualified workforce for industry is very important. Wonderful opportunities are available for today’s students with the proper training”

Dan Plank
Vice President of REHAU



County Superintendent,
Hank Allen
with
Conrad Varblow
and
Dan Plank
of RehaU.



From left to right. Front Row: Mandy Berry (REHAU), Katrina Owens, Loudoun County Virginia
Back Row: Conrad Varblow and Laura Noselli (Loudoun County Virginia), Dan Plank (REHAU)

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With a 200,000 square foot, state-of-the-art shop in Cullman, Alabama, NAFCO has the capacity and the expertise to handle your most challenging steel projects.

Although NAFCO is blessed to have

the foremost facilities and equipment within our industry, our greatest asset is still the quality and integrity of our craftsmen.

We continue to maintain diversity between long-term experienced employees with an average tenure of over 15 years and the eagerness of young hires desiring to learn a true apprenticeship in manufacturing.

NAFCO maintains an open-shop workforce environment offering excellent healthcare benefits and competitive wages with opportunities to excel in the various disciplines and trades common in its engineering and manufacturing operations.



Teacher Exchange Participants

Sitting L-R-
 Tammy Whittle-Vinemont HS,
 Bama Turner -Cullman MS,
 Selena Skipper -Fairview HS,
 Brenda Ring -Fairview ES,
 and
 Elizabeth Moore-Wallace State
 Career Coach.

Standing L-R-
 Pat Floyd-West Point HS,
 Sara McCutcheon- Cullman HS,
 Shelia Mitchell-Fairview HS,
 Rodney Terry- Vinemont HS,
 Crystal Askea- Cullman HS,
 Jonathan Shabel- Wallace State
 Career Coach.

Not pictured are: Lori Andrews,
 Nathan Ayers, Karen Rowell,
 Alison Schug, Susan Sapp,
 Lea Casey and Sandra Tucker

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18 Educators Participate in CAWS Teacher Exchange Program

Eighteen educators from a variety of backgrounds participated in the 3rd CAWS Teacher Exchange Program this summer. Educators spent five days this summer working at one of eight participating industries and businesses. Industries participating this year were: American Proteins, Cullman Electric Cooperative, Cullman Regional Medical Center, The Cullman Times, McGriff Industries, REHAU, Summa Technologies and Yuakta. Stipends for the educators were funded completely by grant allocations from former Representative Neal Morrison and the Wallace State National Science Foundation grants. The purpose of the program is to teach educators about the opportunities available in industry and the skills and training needed. At the July 23rd CAWS meeting, educators gave highlights of what they had learned from their experience. Here are some of their comments and what life lessons they will bring back to their classrooms this fall.

“Learning the importance of metrics in industry”,
Tammy Whittle, REHAU.

“Learning the importance of Critical Thinking Skills in the workplace”,
Bama Turner, REHAU.

“Learning the importance of Customer Service and Character Education in the workplace.”
Crystal Askea and Sara McCutcheon, Cullman Regional Medical Center.

“Learning how important the use of teamwork, having crossover workers and a system of checks and balances are in a business.”
Selena Skipper, the Cullman Times.

“There are many job opportunities available here in Cullman” I was able to observe lots of duties being performed at Summa from plant wastewater treatment to ordering parts, counting inventory, receiving, welding, assembling, painting and final inspections to shipping a finished product out the door and off the yard for military use.”

Pat Floyd, Summa.

The importance of stability and teamwork in the workplace result in happy long term employees. Also, Industry jobs offer respectful, good paying jobs with excellent working conditions”.

Shelia Mitchell, American Proteins:

“Learning the importance of teamwork”,
Brenda Ring, the Cullman Times.

“Observing the importance of company loyalty from staying with a company and moving up the ranks through additional education”,
Elizabeth Moore, Cullman Electric Cooperative.

“There is honor in all work, society is like a grid; when it gets messed up; it doesn't work right”

Rodney Terry, Cullman Electric Cooperative:

“We learned about the Trinity concept and the need for changing teaching styles and expectations. Not all students need to have four years of college to be successful...two year programs preparing for industry offer many opportunities.”

Conrad Varblow, Laura Noselli and Katrina Owens, Rehau



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