

Rehau
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Cullman Area Workforce Solutions is a wonderful program. I would recommend this to anyone in education. I am so excited to get back to school and share with my students and co-workers about my experiences. I learned more in one week than I ever thought possible. I know that my family got tired of hearing me talk on and on each night about the amazing things that I experienced that day.

When I found out that I would be going to Rehau, I had no idea what to expect. I knew that they were a German automotive industry, but that was all I knew. When I arrived on Monday, I will have to admit that I was a little nervous. My colleagues for the week would be Bama Turner and Nate Ayers. We had a great time together. Everyone at Rehau was extremely friendly and prepared for us. The week had been planned and we each got a copy of an agenda that was extremely helpful. Dan Plank and Mandy Berry in Human Resources are wonderful; we relied on them all week.

Safety was the first issue we tackled. Mike Mullany instructed us on plant safety on gave us our safety gear. Dan gave us a tour of the plant, both the automotive and PEX sides of the campus. That was when I realize that industry was not what I expected. Rehau is extremely clean, organized and the climate is comfortable. We went to the test lab, it is amazing how many test or performed on the parts before and after production. Lane Pair showed us many examples of testing. Mike Witcher walked us through the receiving area and explained how incoming and outgoing supplies are stored. Everything is organized and labeled. Next was injection molding. This is where the actual parts are made. We worked on the line with Melissa and Debbie. That was a lot of fun.

Tim Glascoe from the paint kitchen showed us the methods used for mixing and storing the paint. Then we went to the paint line to see the paint being applied by the robots. That was very impressive. After seeing how the paint was applied, we went to the color lab to see how the paint was matched to the customer's choice. Bart Wilbanks and Brandon Young operate this area. They are amazing. Bart gave us a color test to see if we would be skilled to work in the lab. We got very complete with that. Brandon explained how the robots are programmed. Each type of part has its own computer program for the robot. Lar Krook explained how the robots on the injection molding side are programmed and the amount of time it takes to setup the initial program when the customer contracts them to produce a new product.

David Smith led us through the paint line 3 where the paint parts are sanded, polished, and spot repaired. Ken Calvert, the fabrication supervisor took us to the area where the parts are assembled and the last inspection is made before shipping. Our last stop was with Silivo Rabending, he is the accountant. He explained his job and how cost and price is calculated.

The entire week was so educational. I would like to thank Rehau and CAWS for allowing me to participate in this program and look forward to next summer.