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MAY 29, 2008

ADS IN THE CAWS SECTION ALSO APPEAR ON THE GULLMAN TIMES' WEBSITE AT
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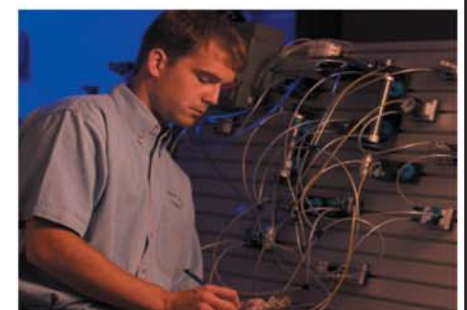
Automotive Manufacturing
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Inaugural CAWS Career Expo a Success

The first Cullman Area Workforce Solutions (CAWS) Career Expo was held March 7 – 8, 2008, and was a complete success despite inclement weather, organizers said.

Held at the former Goody's Building in Cullman's Town Square Shopping Center, the two-day event was host to over 1,000 8th Grade Students from Cullman and Blount Counties on Friday, March 7, and was open to the general public on Saturday, March 8.

Attendees visited the booths of forty exhibitors, ranging from local industries and businesses to utility companies, law enforcement agencies and numerous individual programs available at Wallace State College.

CAWS Steering Committee Chair Judy Bradford said both days were an unqualified success, with student and teacher feedback being overwhelmingly positive.

"This was the first time anything like this has ever been attempted in Cullman," Bradford said. "I think it was a tremendous success. We received a lot of support from the community in the organization of the Career Expo. We hope to make this an annual event."

Despite a very busy day on Friday, organizers were worried about attendance numbers for Saturday when the weather outlook turned bleak overnight. As the second morning of the event began with snow and sleet, Susan Eller, a member of the CAWS Unemployed/Underemployed Focus Group that organized the event, said she feared the second day of the Expo would be a bust.

"It went surprisingly well even though the weather was nasty," Eller said. "We had about 250 people attend on Saturday. We were very pleased with the turnout."

According to Bradford, however, the Expo's success can not be measured by mere numbers.

"Cullman has been very successful in the growth of our business/industry base, by both new organizations locating here and expansions of existing companies. Making sure we have a qualified workforce to fill these jobs is key to our continued success," she said. "The Career Expo allowed the general public a chance to see what employment opportunities are available in our area, and what it takes to become qualified for those positions. It also gave our young people who are still in school an insight into different career choices."

"This helps them to think about their future and what educational decisions they need to make in order to pursue their goals. Hopefully, next year's Career Expo will be even bigger and better. The CAWS group looks forward to continuing this project, and others, in an effort to assist our community in becoming the most qualified workforce in the state."

The CAWS Career Expo was sponsored by Summa Technology, Cullman Regional Medical Center, Axsys Technologies, Louisiana Pacific, American Proteins, American Dehydrated Foods, Cooper Hand Tools, Cullman Electric Cooperative, Cullman Power Board, Wal-Mart

Distribution Center, McGriff Industries, First South Farm Credit, Drinkard Development, Wallace State – Hanceville, REHAU, NAFCO, the City of Cullman Industrial Development Board and the Cullman County Industrial Development Board.



Cullman and Blount County Students attend CAWS Career Expo

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Second round of CAWS Educator Exchange Awards set to begin

In 2007, Cullman Area Workforce Solutions (CAWS) successfully completed the first installment of the Educator Exchange Awards with 16 teachers, administrators and counselors from city and county schools placed in local industries.

CAWS recently announced the participating educators and companies that will hopefully make the 2008 program a continued success.

Eighteen recipients were chosen this year, including four teachers who participated in the 2007 program.

"Last year's program was a big success," said CAWS Steering Committee Vice-Chair Dan Plank of REHAU, Inc. "The 16 teachers who participated shared their experiences with us, and everyone came away from it with something new to bring to the classroom. And that's the goal of the program."

"We wanted to bring industry and education together in a new way. By bringing teachers into local manufacturers, we show them firsthand what skills employees need and how what they do in front of their classes has an impact on the success of their students in the modern workplace. And we're strengthening the ties between the education system and the industrial sector. Based on the success of last year's program and the changes we've made through the teachers' feedback, I have no doubt we'll have an even better program this year."

One major change resulting from the feedback of the 2007 participants was that the program was shortened from two weeks to one for 2008. Another suggestion that came up numerous times during the program wrap-up sessions was that the teachers wanted to be able to call upon industry representatives to speak to their classes. This recurring theme led to the formation of the CAWS Speaker's Bureau in late 2007.

"The feedback we got from the teachers who went through the program was invaluable in helping us refine and improve the Educators Exchange program," said Carl English of Topre America, a CAWS Steering Committee member and coordinator of the Educators Focus Group that headed up the exchange program. "As last year was our pilot program, we didn't have that to rely upon. This year, we've taken what they told us and tried to make the program better for the participants and for the companies that are hosting them." "One of our goals with the Educator Exchange was to bring educators into the workplace so that they can share the experience with their students, but we also wanted to change perceptions about manufacturing as a career and about local career options. Judging from the

fact that numerous participants from last year re-applied, I think we've succeeded on that front as well."

The 2008 Educator Exchange Awards recipients and their host companies are:

- 1) **Brenda Allison, Hanceville Middle School - Wal-Mart Distribution**
- 2) **Misti Leigh Allison, Cullman High School - REHAU, Inc.**
- 3) **Nathan Ayers, Holly Pond High School - Louisiana Pacific**
- 4) **Julie Berry, Cullman Primary - American Proteins, Inc.**
- 5) **Kim Brown, Hanceville Elementary - Alabama Cullman Yutaka**
- 6) **Jennifer Carmack, Vinemont High School - SUMMA**
- 7) **Mark Cornelius, Holly Pond High School - REHAU, Inc.**
- 8) **Denise Feldner, Career Center - Cullman Electric**
- 9) **Connie Hilton, Vinemont High School - SUMMA**
- 10) **Tony Johnson, Vinemont Elementary - Alabama Cullman Yutaka**
- 11) **Kimberly Oliver, Vinemont High School - Cullman Electric**
- 12) **Michelle Pender, Hanceville Elementary - American Proteins, Inc.**
- 13) **Karen Perry, Cullman High School - American Proteins, Inc.**
- 14) **Susan Sapp, Cullman High School - American Proteins, Inc.**
- 15) **Susan Sellers, Vinemont Middle School - REHAU, Inc.**
- 16) **Tim Sellers, Fairview High School - Topre America**
- 17) **Sandra Tucker, Career Center - McGriff Industries**
- 18) **William Troutman, Hanceville High School - Topre America**

The CAWS Educator Exchange Awards Program is open to teachers, counselors and administrators from city and county schools. Applicants are encouraged from a variety of schools, grade levels and fields of study. Participants receive a stipend for their labor and are required to prepare lesson plans for their students based upon their experiences.

This program is funded in part by a grant awarded under the President's Community-Based Job Training Grants, as implemented by the U.S. Department of Labor's Employment & Training Administration. Cullman Employment Center and the host industries provided additional funding for the 2008 Educator Exchange Awards.





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Wallace State Nursing Graduates Head from Pinning to Workforce

Hanceville, AL—The Wallace State-Hanceville Nursing Department recognized 97 students graduating from the Associate Degree Nursing program during a pinning ceremony on Thursday, May 8, in the Wallace State Student Center Theater. The pinning ceremony is a tradition that marks the end of a nursing student's academic career and the beginning of career in nursing.

"I know there were times when you thought you would never make it to this point, but it's here and you're here," Dr. Denise Elliott, Director of the Nursing Department, told the graduating class.

She encouraged the students to find a nurse role model and to open their hearts and minds in the practice of their profession. "You will never do anything more important than relieving someone's suffering or helping someone who is in pain—and pain comes in many forms," Elliott said.

Wallace State President Vicki Hawsey told the graduating class that this ceremony was her favorite of the season. "It is among the most meaningful, touching, moving ceremonies you will ever attend," she said. She shared some of the ways nurses have touched her own life and offered her congratulations to the class while reminding them that, as graduates and representatives of the nursing department, "we will continue to hold you to very high expectations." Licensure rates for Wallace State nursing graduates are better than 90 percent, outstanding by any standards.

Graduates from the Associate Degree Nursing program crossed the stage to receive the school pin from nursing faculty members and were then presented to the audience. After the pinning, students formed a circle, the lights were dimmed and instructors lit the oil lamps held by each student to represent the passing of the light of knowledge. This part of the ceremony commemorates founder of modern nursing Florence Nightingale, her life's work, and the lamp she carried during the Crimean War. Students recited the Nightingale Pledge led by Dr. Nancy Corser, Dean of Health Sciences.

Each year WSCC nursing faculty members choose as Nightingale Award winners those students who are class role models for their dedication to learning, compassion with patients, and commitment to nursing.

"These students have risen to the top and embody the spirit of Florence Nightingale," said Elliot, who made the presentations.

Recipients of the 2008 Nightingale Awards are Cory Kinley, Autumn Trott and Donna Walker.

Several additional presentations were made during the ceremony. The class made a donation to the Hazel M. Outlaw scholarship fund, which assists nursing students with expenses. The 2007-2008 ADN class officers and representatives were also recognized--President Jayson Cyree, Vice President Ritchie Drummond, Secretary-Treasurer Jessica Parker, Representative Angel Spencer, and Representative Autumn Trott.

The nursing class members received their associate degree in nursing diplomas during Wallace State's commencement exercises on the Friday following the pinning.

Many of the students graduating will go straight to work. Some received offers before ever graduating and will work on a provisional basis until they pass their board exam.

Others will take advantage of the Wallace State-University of Alabama nursing program articulation to earn advanced degrees.

Job opportunities in nursing abound in the area. Within 50 miles of Cullman are more than 100 openings, including positions posted at Cullman Regional Medical Center and Woodland Hospital.

Registered nurses, regardless of specialty or work setting, treat patients, educate patients and the public about various medical conditions, and provide advice and emotional support to patients' family members. RNs record patients' medical histories and symptoms, help perform diagnostic tests and analyze results, operate medical machinery, administer treatment and medications, and help with patient follow-up and rehabilitation.

They may specialize in one or more areas of patient care, a seemingly endless variety of specialties ranging from location-specific to treatment- or health condition-spe-

cific to population-specific. A sampling of occupational areas includes critical care, transplant, long term care, psychiatric-mental health, radiology, occupational health, pediatrics, and oncology.

For more information about nursing, view the Occupational Outlook Handbook at www.bls.gov. Contact the Wallace State Nursing Department at www.wallacestate.edu or 256/352-8199.



Presentation of nurses to the audience after their pinning

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Alabama Employment Service

www.joblink.alabama.gov

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www.alcareertech.org

Alabama Tech Prep

www.alabamatechprep.org

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www.acteonline.org

Cullman Area Workforce Solutions (CAWS)

www.cullmancareers.com

Cullman County Schools

www.ccboe.org

Cullman City Schools

www.cullmancats.net

Wallace State College – Hanceville

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The following is a partial listing of the employee benefits we offer at Topre America.

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Dental Insurance
Vision Insurance
Short Term Disability Insurance
401(k) Savings/Retirement Plan
Life Insurance
Holidays:
Paid Vacation

Below is a listing of some of the jobs performed by Topre America employees.

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Assembly Department
Engineering Department
Quality Department
Maintenance Department
Gorika Department
Material Department
Administration Department
Human Resources Department
Sales Department

Skills / Education Required for Employment at Topre America
All job applicants must have a High School Diploma or GED. Minimum requirement of a High School Diploma or GED for all positions

Application Process for Employment at Topre America

Topre America posts job listings with Alabama Career Center located on Katherine Street in Cullman, Alabama. The Career Center will take applications when we inform them of anticipated job vacancies. We also place advertisements for positions in local and regional newspapers.

Applications for employment may be obtained at the Career Center. Resumes may be emailed to Topre America at toprehr@topreamerica.com.

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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, Michigan, was founded in 1947 by James R. Schiller. In 1967 Mr. Schiller moved his Corporate Offices, along with a sizeable manufacturing operation to Cullman, Alabama. We have been located at 6717 AL Hwy 157 in Cullman since 1974.

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, Global Hawk, F/A-22, IFTS, M1A2, Bradley, Mars Explorer, Exo-atmospheric Kill Vehicle (EKV), James Webb Space Telescope (JWST) and several National Missile Defense programs.

Because of our commitment to excellence in all aspects of our business; from financial growth, customer satisfaction, community service and employee involvement, in 2004 the Alabama Technology Network and the Business Council of Alabama named Axsys Technologies PMP the Alabama Medium-Sized Manufacturer of the Year.

APPLICATION PROCESS FOR EMPLOYMENT AT AXSYS PMP

Axsys Technologies PMP lists virtually all job openings with the Alabama Career Center System located at 1201 Katherine Street, NW, Cullman, Alabama. (256) 734-4911. We also place advertisements for positions in local and regional newspapers.

Applications for employment may be obtained at the Career Center or 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.

AXSYS PMP BENEFITS

The following is a partial listing of the benefits of Axsys PMP, effective January 1, 2008:

- ▶ **Medical Insurance** - Blue Cross Blue Shield of Alabama (BlueCard PPO) - Covers hospital, physician, major medical, prescription drugs, etc.
- ▶ **Dental Insurance** - Blue Cross Blue Shield of Alabama (BlueCard PPO) - Covers preventative and diagnostic dental care, oral surgery, orthodontia, etc.
- ▶ **Vision Insurance** - Vision Care Plan - Covers eye exams, eyeglasses, contact lenses, etc.
- ▶ **Basic Life and AD&D** - Company-paid life and accidental death and dismemberment insurance benefit for all employees.
- ▶ **Optional and Dependent Life** - Employees may buy additional life insurance at 1x, 2x or 3x base annual salary. May also purchase dependent life insurance for spouse and/or children.
- ▶ **Short & Long Term Disability Insurance** - Replaces income during extended illness/injury.
- ▶ **401(k) Savings/Retirement Plan** - Allows you to save for retirement with pre-tax dollars. Axsys matches your contribution dollar for dollar up to 4% total match.
- ▶ **Tuition Reimbursement Plan** - Continuing education is a key part of our shared vision at Axsys PMP. Tuition costs, books and fees are reimbursed at 100% up to a \$5,000 annual maximum for job-related undergraduate and graduate courses.
- ▶ **Paid Time Off** - Axsys PMP provides employees with paid Vacation, Holidays, Personal Days, and Sick Day



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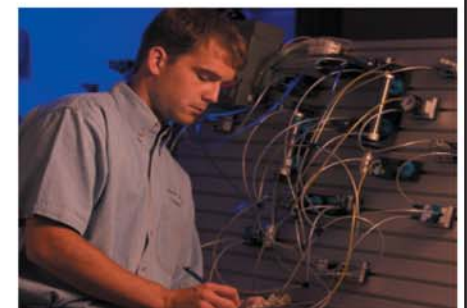
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