A new initiative begins, and grant work is completed

**Toyota Plant Visit**
In August 2014, we (the lab director and 5 students who work in the lab) traveled to Georgetown, KY to visit TMMK. Jerry Sturdivant was our host for this visit and we really appreciate his support of our students. We did the full plant tour of TMMK; this was my 4th visit, but my first time doing that particular tour, which was excellent. We also visited the training center “next door”, and spent some time on the floor in the power train portion of the plant.

**Raymond Collaboration**
We have developed an idea for possible collaboration between Raymond (Toyota) and RIT; the idea is giving students an opportunity to experience TPS in the real world, and do it in a way that Raymond realizes a benefit. We had some discussions with Scott Campbell, the TPS Manager for Manufacturing, and Mike Field, President, Operations and Engineering Div., about a potential approach: 1. Raymond identifies an opportunity for students to do process observation and improvement in a work center of Raymond’s choosing. 2. A group of students travel the 150 miles to the plant and do 1 or more days of “study”. We want to test how well prepared the students are to make a contribution to the process improvement activities at Raymond, and whether Raymond benefits from the time they invest. We ran the first “test” in January. Scott Campbell and Steve Caletka hosted a group of six IE students, 4 of whom work in the Toyota Lab, for 5 days spread over 3 weeks. We are finishing up the deliverables at this time.

**Toyota USA Foundation Grant**
We completed work on the REMS grant in September. In 2014, we hosted 54 activities in the lab, testing and using the 9 activities (x 3 grade levels each) that we developed. Our website is also operational.

**Lab operations and other activities**

**Staffing**
We have added Srikanth Peyyeti and Poojith Kalluru to our lab staff this academic year, in addition to Ajith Sharma and Kshitij Luthria who continue in their roles.

**Benchmarking Visit**
Several of the lab students participated in an IIE event, which was a tour of a nearby Welch Allyn plant. As a result, we have reformatted the whiteboard we use to track our activities.

**Operations**
We have developed and tested a mixed model lab for our production’ systems course, using the lid and water pump assemblies. This is an upgrade from previous labs when we marked the same parts with tape to simulate mixed models; now we have different parts with different work content, components, and tools. We also did a major 5S sort / set in order event, triggered by waxing the entire lab floor.