

# TOYOTA Production Systems Laboratory



Industrial and Systems  
Engineering

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## The RIT - Toyota Relationship

The relationship between Toyota and the Rochester Institute of Technology began in 1998, when the first two coops were hired by Toyota Motors Engineering and Manufacturing North America (TEMA). During the next 15 years, the relationship grew stronger and RIT became one of the top Toyota suppliers of coop students and full time hires. Today, dozens of RIT graduates work for Toyota at most of its North American locations, including the Erlanger Headquarters, the Ann Arbor Technical Center, Toyota Sales and in most plants.

In addition, this relationship has resulted in the endowment of an award-winning facility, the Toyota Production Systems Lab, that resides within the Kate Gleason College of Engineering. This facility exposes hundreds of students every year to hands-on activities in production systems, lean and TPS content. Additionally, it welcomes about a thousand visitors every year.

Today, Toyota personnel sit on several important boards within RIT. These include: Nancy Fein (RIT Board of Trustees), Kimi Demko (Coop and Career Services advisory board and Women in Engineering advisory board), as well as Jerry Sturdivant, Sandy Nott, George Gooch and Kim Demko (advisors to the TPS Lab).

## Timeline

1998	Toyota (TEMA) hires first two RIT coops. Coop and full time hiring will continue until present time.	2009	Professor Carrano spends several months in Japan and visits Toyota City, Tsutsumi plant and the Headquarters.
2001	Professor Carrano (Industrial Engineering, RIT) establishes an assembly lab, the precursor of the current Toyota Production Systems Lab.	2010	TPS Lab receives national recognition by the Institute of Industrial Engineers: <i>The 2010 Excellence in Teaching Lean Concepts Award</i> .
2007	Toyota day at RIT. Sponsorship and naming of the Toyota Production Systems Lab (\$100K).  Industrial Engineering faculty visit TEMA Headquarters and TMMK Georgetown plant and receive TPS/TBP training.		The Toyota Foundation USA awards \$420K to the TPS lab to develop K-12 problem solving activities.  Additional sponsorship is given to the Toyota Production Systems Lab (\$40K and \$50K).
2008	Industrial Engineering faculty visit TMMI plant in Indiana to receive additional training.  Professor Kaemmerlen joins the Toyota Lab after 30+ years of experience in Lean and Manufacturing/ Logistics at Kodak.  Additional sponsorship is given to the Toyota Production Systems Lab (\$40K).	2011	Construction begins on the expansion of the Toyota Lab. A new warehousing area with pick-to-light order fulfillment and build-to-light kitting area is installed.  Industrial Engineering professors and student lab staff visit TMMK and NAPSC for training.
2009	Industrial Engineering professors (Carrano and Kaemmerlen) visit TMMK Georgetown plant, TEMA Erlanger, and the NAPSC Training Center.	2012	A new paced conveyor for jidoka-based exercises is commissioned. Additional sponsorship (\$50K) is received.
		2012	The National Science Foundation awards \$200K to lab faculty to develop experiential problem solving methods for deaf and hard of hearing students.

## QUICK FACTS

NUMBER OF COOPS THAT TOYOTA HAS EMPLOYED FROM RIT **245**

NUMBER OF FULL TIME HIRES THAT TOYOTA HAS RECRUITED FROM RIT **102**

NUMBER OF RIT CAREER FAIRS ATTENDED BY TOYOTA SINCE 2004 **22**

### Website

[www.rit.edu/ToyotaLab](http://www.rit.edu/ToyotaLab)

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