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## Bridgestone Warren Plant Visit

Bridgestone Americas Tire Operations has staked a claim in Central Tennessee with their Warren County tire plant, located in the Morrison area; recently expanded, the factory turns out roughly 900 truck and bus tires per day. TTU College of Engineering has developed a good relationship with Bridgestone, with the company hiring a good number of TTU engineering graduates to work at the Warren facility. Currently, 24 TTU COE alumni are employed at Bridgestone Americas Tire Operations – Warren County Plant, with four students in internship or co-op positions (the company is actively seeking more). In keeping with Bridgestone's long-running relationship with TTU, the company recently invited a select group of mechanical, electrical and chemical engineering students for a visit and tour of their Warren County facility.

The undergraduate and graduate students from TTU got to see the entire manufacturing process, from shipments of rubber dust and carbon black all the way to finished tires, and visited with various employee teams from Bridgestone. The TTU students got an up-close look at the latest advances in manufacturing processes at Bridgestone, including innovations like self-guided forklifts in the plant's receiving department, powered by hydrogen fuel cells. Dr. Holly Stretz, Dr. Jeffrey Rice, Dean Joseph Rencis and Development Director Tracy Russell were also along for the trip, which included lunch at the plant.

Bridgestone's presence in Tennessee also includes a manufacturing facility in Rutherford County and the company's North American Headquarters in Nashville; both locations also employ a number of TTU graduates.

*Last edited 2014.10.15 by Davis, Cynthia.*