

Associate Spotlight: Tony Huffman

MODERNIZING MANUFACTURING

In his 15 years with DENSO, Tony Huffman has seen a lot. Starting as a temp worker, today Tony is a sub-leader on two engine cooling module (ECM) lines at DENSO's manufacturing facility in Battle Creek, Michigan. Armed with refined skills and a fondness for problem solving, he has grown his career by helping with manufacturing improvement projects, including:

- Bringing karakuri – the use of mechanical devices to create movement – to production lines. Karakuri uses pulleys and aircraft cable to remove empty totes of component parts and replace them with full ones. This saves time and reduces the need for heavy lifting by associates. To implement this project, Tony was part of a group of associates from his facility as well as DENSO Japan and Canada.
- Working with other team leaders and sub-leader to program and install a Central Poke yoke System (CPS) on assembly lines. This kaizen project uses light screens to assist associates in completing standardized work and eliminates wasted time and movement from processes.

Most recently, Tony has been involved in the use of Drishti's action recognition technology, which is enabled by artificial intelligence and computer vision. "The whole idea of Drishti is to record work being done and then leverage the data in a multitude of ways. It automatically captures activities done each day, so we don't have to do it manually and can focus our attention on other priorities," explained Tony.

Individual production lines aren't the only factors Tony and the team take into consideration with the Drishti project. They also provide feedback and work actively with Drishti to make the technology better, for Drishti and DENSO's benefit. This type of collaboration and use of technologies like Drishti are examples of how DENSO is working toward our [Long-Term Policy 2030](#) to create and inspire new value for advanced mobility using disruptive technology.

Tony is grateful for the opportunities he's been provided throughout his career and looks forward to more in the future, "We're stepping into a new world now where things are going to change quickly. We need to embrace changes in technology – it's coming and we have to be ready."

For more information on DENSO's use of Drishti, read our [recent press release](#).

