



# Spotlight Article

## RIT Co-op Experience at Tel-Tru

My experience at Tel-Tru Manufacturing has been a fantastic one. The company has helped me learn and grow more than I could have imagined before starting this co-op. This co-op has had many hands on experiences with different projects as well as projects that reinforced some of my skills that I obtained in classes at RIT. One of my favorite things to do is design work for new processes, parts or tools. Coming into this co-op I did not expect to get a lot of design experience, but I was wrong. I have helped design and implement multiple different pieces of equipment ranging from storage applications for parts all the way to helping design larger processes, for example a new sanitary thermometer welding system. On top of that, I was able to obtain knowledge with different hands on experiences. There are a large variety of projects, large and small, that have been at my disposal to work on here at Tel-Tru that have broadened my knowledge in engineering. Each and every project has helped me learn things I never even touched on in class.



Jesse Menkins, RIT student

One of the biggest projects and in my opinion one of the more exciting ones, had to be working with a new robotic arm. We bought a UR5 robotic arm, and I was given the opportunity to learn how to use it, program it and eventually start the project on how to implement it into our work environment. This project and experience was unlike any other, I had absolutely no background knowledge in programming or using a robotic arm from any of my schooling and I was able to play with and learn a huge amount of information from this robot. I was able to get a Universal Robots certification for using this robotic arm and I had a lot of fun learning how to use it and implement it.

There are many other projects that I enjoyed working on here at Tel-Tru, but another one that sticks out was the ability to learn and write a process detail about an intricate automated machine that the company recently bought. When I first started at Tel-Tru, this machine was still fairly new, my supervisor helped me learn the machine and eventually I got to the point where I was recognized as a subject matter expert. In this role, I am able to troubleshoot different problems that may occur, at first this was difficult because I didn't have any experience with troubleshooting problems with an automated machine. Now, whenever there is an issue with the machine, I am the first one to be notified and the first one to go up and take a look. At this point there isn't much that will stop me from getting that machine back up and running. I enjoy teaching other operators on how the machine works and explaining the process the machine goes through to produce the most critical part of a thermometer. Although these are only a few larger projects that I have worked on, I could go on and on about how great this company has been and how many opportunities I have received to showcase how capable I was at accomplishing some of the goals that were set for me. I believe I have become a more well-rounded engineering student and future engineer because of this company and I can't be thankful enough for this opportunity at Tel-Tru.



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