

# Same Production Line, Different Production Channel



**Jessica Howard**  
**Business Teacher at**  
**Lone Tree Community Schools**  
**2019 extern at John Deere Davenport Works**

## Part I: Overview of Workplace

John Deere Davenport Works manufactures quality construction and forestry equipment that can be used on the roughest terrains. The quality of a company is expressed through the quality of its leadership. For more than 180 years, John Deere has benefitted from strong, decisive leaders at its helm. Led by Samuel R. Allen, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Deere & Company is dedicated to the core values of integrity, quality, commitment, and innovation. At John Deere, we work every day to uphold our founder's core values. Integrity, quality, commitment, and innovation are more than ideals we work toward. They are values we live and breathe – values found in every product, service, and opportunity we offer.

## Part II: Workplace Focus

The focus of this project was to assist inventory practices, enhance communication between operators, managing critical parts, and proactively solving problems of the [production class loader](#).

## Part III: Introduce the Problem

The plant had been set up to make a specific series for a significant period of time. In that time, the production line was optimized to create 4 of this huge machine each day. As all things do, this model was phased out and the new model began to be produced. After all the previous years of continuous production, there were all brand new parts, equipment, and information to be addressed. Many moving parts creates many pain points and new opportunities for unique situations. How can potential problems be addressed before they create a lasting impact on the creation of the product?

## Part IV: Background

Content knowledge needed to fix this problem would include FIFO (first in, first out inventory), COGI (cost of goods issued) and basic accounting skills.

New skills or techniques that the workplace needed to solve this problem were proactively responding to issues that could be foreseen and using previous knowledge to support the new product in a consistent way.

## Part V: Workplace Solution

The problem is an ongoing process that is being reviewed by all aspects of the production line. From the smallest bolt to the largest tractor tire, each piece is individually attended to and tracked, counted and followed from creation to delivery.

## Part VI: Educational Pathways

Education needed to complete this role includes: while a degree is not required, it is highly encouraged to complete a bachelor's degree. Prior experience is not necessary but is embraced. To complete the pathway from classroom to material coordinator, a life long desire for learning, being a self starter and adapting prior content knowledge to fit the desired situation.