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SUCCESS SPOTLIGHT

JAUWAN'S JOURNEY

Fifteen-year-old JauWan visited the Michigan Works! Livonia Service Center seeking resume assistance in advance of the Center's Youth Summer Job Fair. At that time, he was referred to the WIOA Youth Program. He met with Youth Connections Coach Leah Gordon, and she asked him about his career aspirations. Professional basketball player! Leah asked some follow-up questions and JauWan agreed that making it to the NBA would be like winning the lottery. JauWan shared a different occupational interest – robotics engineering. He explained that he had been a member of his school's robotics engineering club for three years and really enjoyed it.

JauWan's timing couldn't have been better. UAW-Ford was offering a Skilled Trades Awareness Training for a select group of SEMCA Michigan Works! Youth participants. The opportunity would provide JauWan with invaluable experience in a manufacturing environment. Even better—it was a Paid Work Experience, meaning that JauWan would receive an hourly wage for the five-week training. Taught by current and retired journeymen, the curriculum included instruction and hands-on activities in power tools, precision measurement, math for skilled trades, troubleshooting mechanical equipment, welding, pipefitting and much more.



EDSI's Youth Team acted quickly to confirm JauWan's eligibility and secure a slot for him in the program. JauWan and his mother met with the Youth Team to complete the enrollment process, and JauWan began the training with UAW-Ford the next day. Despite being the youngest participant in the group, he did very well, helping others and earning accolades from the staff. JauWan's mother expressed her appreciation: "This has been a blessing, and I'm so grateful that the Michigan Works! team was able to see in JauWan what I have always seen."

While JauWan continues to work on his jump shot, we're most excited for his future opportunities in the high-demand occupations of robotics and advanced automation.