## Ford, OU combine forces—it's 'a natural'



Linds Furey, Oakland University math student from Troy, shows her professor, Harold Arnold of Rochester, how she applied statis-tical theory to quality testing at Ford's Dearborn Engine Plant.

It's not just a \$1.3 million gift from ord Motor Co. to Oakland University.

Ford Motor Co. to Oatland University.
The deal cuts two ways.
"Our engineers will study with the university, and their students will work as interns with us," said Ford President Harold A. Poling, who presented ment in a five-year program.
"It will upgrade our facilities and staff," said OU President Joseph Champage, He said an early project will be to equip a \$100,000 statistical methods laboratory on the Rochester Hills campus.

POLING, CHAMPAGNE and OU students, in a Tuesday news conference, revealed details of what the autocompany chief called "a natural... the first of its kind in the United States."

the first of its kind in the United States."

Twin purposes are to upgrade OU's ability to teach statistical methods and Ford's testing in its Dearborn Engine

Ports testing in its Desiroth Zaglac Plant.

"There's a feeling that a machine makes a part, and the second part is like the first. That's not true," explained George Piell, plant manager.

Already three OU math students have spent summer internalips at Ford, using their statistical theory to improve testing and production methods. Piell said it would be an annual program, that the number would be expanded at least to four, and that the interns would be seriously considered for jobs after graduation.

LINDA FUREY of Troy said that when she decided to become a statisti-clan, she had only "a vague idea of what the job is." Now she knows. An undergraduate student in statis-tics, Furey said she worked with engi-

neers on timing belt tensions. If the belt is made without sufficient tension,

betts made without sufficient tension. If the belt is made without sufficient tension, production time is lost, she said.

Furey also learned how to use a special computer software program called "Ministab" to analyse data. She and two other students will continue as interns, two days a week, through the fall somester.

"We had a chance to learn what cannot be taught in the cleasroom," asid student Julie Frayer of Waterford. "And working in the plant has been quite an experience — very different from working in an office building or in the classroom."

ELMER BLOCK, a Ford retiree from Livenia who worked on the OU project, said \$100,000 would go to equipping OU's statistical methods lab. Another \$125,000 will go to faculty development — both training math and science faculty and exposing them to industry through on-site courses and consulting in the plant.

The remaining \$1.1 million will go to OU's for future consulting services, student internatings and special projects. Poling said, "Ford engine and elevate their statistical mills through their international professional projects and elevate their statistical mills through their internations with the Oakland faculty in term Oakland will gain information from actual automotive case studies to improve its course content and helpsten the real-world experience of its faculty and students."

Champagne said he hoped the program, scheduled for five years, would extend "into the 1990s and perhaps even beyond. The future will demand more intense concentration and joint ventures."

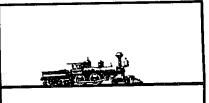
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Such projects, the OU chief said, will benefit the economic growth of this state, the students and institutions such as Ford."



Julie Frayer, Oakland University statistics major from Waterford, and Ford Isyout Inspector Christopher Majtyka use a measuring machine to check welding study locations on a Ford Taurus fuel tank panel.

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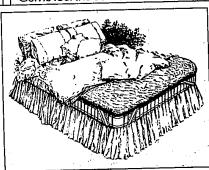
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