



Michael Gaines earned a Bachelor of Industrial and Systems Engineering from Auburn University in 1997.

Gaines currently works as the manufacturing planning and control division lead for Honda Alabama Auto Plant. He describes his role at Honda's largest plant in North America as exhilarating.

"Serving as the vital link between Honda's corporate functions and our manufacturing division, which proudly produces globally acclaimed models like the Honda Odyssey, Pilot, Passport, and Ridgeline, my responsibilities are very diverse," Gaines said. "A typical day involves collaboration with various Honda North America corporate functions, ranging from human resources and safety to accounting and IT. This cross-functional engagement ensures a seamless connection between the corporate strategy and the operational aspects of our manufacturing division."

In addition to overseeing the production of Honda vehicles, Gaines' division takes on the critical tasks of production equipment maintenance and repair, as well as managing the company's business plan and budget control.

Gaines has been employed at Honda since 2002. He has worked in numerous roles including purchasing manager and plant manager. He transitioned to his current role in 2021. Before joining Honda, Gaines worked in various roles for The Torrington Company's Georgia plant.

"I continue to leverage the knowledge and passion instilled in me during my time at Auburn's Industrial and Systems Engineering (ISE) program," Gaines said. "Dr. Black's Manufacturing II class ignited my passion for manufacturing, emphasizing the exciting simplicity of the process. This passion has been a guiding force throughout my career, facilitating my growth as a leader."