April 11, 2017 – The Biomedical Engineering Society’s club (BMES) hosted an industry tour with Edwards Lifesciences in Draper, Ut.

Edwards Lifesciences is one of the world’s leading biomedical manufacturer of cardiovascular implants. These include heart valves and hemodynamic monitoring technology. They were founded in 1958 when the recently retired engineer Miles Edwards set out to help patients with heart disease. Initially, his goal was to create the world’s first artificial heart. However, one of his contemporaries - believing that mechanizing the human heart was too complex, encouraged Miles to develop an artificial heart valve; especially where heart valves had a wider range of immediate applications at the time. Miles went on to create an artificial mitral valve and successfully implant it in a patient. At the time, this revolutionary technology was revered as a medical miracle. Today Edwards Lifesciences leads the field in cardiovascular tissue replacement, repair, and monitoring having helped over two million patients across the globe.

Nine students were able to attend the industry tour. While in attendance they learned about the professionalism, research, and biomedical engineering that is conducted by a globally renowned company. The HR manager escorted the students through the facility and they were able to meet with a variety of personnel including the VP of operations, a manufacturing manager, and a quality control manager. After the tour, student Matt Clegg stated: “This was by far the best industry tour our group has ever done.”