

“Trip winds down with visits to school, factories”
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Nagoya, Japan – The West Virginians on a trade mission to Japan wound up their trip today by visiting several English-language classes at a university and factory tours. First Lady Gayle Manchin led a visit to Aichi Shukutoku University, a private school that has an exchange program with West Virginia University. Students in one of the classes the

West Virginians visited had screen-savers on their computers with West Virginia pictures. They treated their guests with photo presentations about Japanese culture. The West Virginians then answered the students’ questions about the Mountain State. The First Lady thanked the university’s administrators for the opportunity to visit. During a question-and-answer session, she learned that most Japanese expect their children to attend a well-respected university. She also learned that scholarships and financial aid are available to very bright students and to students who have suffered natural disasters. Manchin told the students that she is an educator and, therefore, understands how difficult it is to learn a foreign language. She congratulated them on their studies and urged them to continue to work hard. Gov. Joe Manchin had private meetings this morning with business prospects his staff declined to identify. He joined his wife and other West Virginians this afternoon to tour NGK’s ceramic sensor plant in Komaki. Michio Kato, president of NGK, Tom Wetzels, vice president of NGK USA and other top company officials met the West Virginians at the plant entrance and, following the tour, hosted a luncheon.

Next on the agenda was a visit to an industrial park in Kani City, a hilly area with topography that is very similar to West Virginia’s. The West Virginians toured Kato Seisakusho, a company that has operations in Jackson County. Gov. Manchin then returned to Nagoya to meet with business prospects while the others toured Okuma Corp. This evening, the West Virginians were to gather for a farewell dinner. They depart Saturday for Charleston.