



# EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

**Aaron Woods, IE**  
Operations Manager



**Q. How did you become employed at ATL?**

**A.** Bonnie Law, who was a family friend, referred me while I was still at Clarkson University. I worked a summer as a CMET technician in Watertown, then was hired as an Engineer in WT once I graduated the following year.

**Q. Who were your mentors at ATL when you started out?**

**A.** There were many individuals I looked up to who helped train me along the way. Jim Trathen was my Operations Manager, Brian Barnes and Adam Schneider gave me good direction on the engineering side of what we do, Joe Grabowski and Ryan Morrison trained me on the CMET field and lab side of things. Everyone mentioned above was technically sound, and provided great instruction and feedback when I was first starting out.

**Q. What technical skills did you acquire that helped make you an expert in your position?**

**A.** I wouldn't say I am an "expert" in any position. There is always room for growth and improvement. I was always focused, paid attention, and asked a lot of questions throughout my career thus far at ATL. I was always willing to lend a helping hand, which is what got me started in helping the drilling division when I was still working out of Watertown. I often volunteered to go out on drill rigs, get trained in Electrical Resistivity and CPT testing, and enjoyed helping Adam and Brian out with Geotechnical Reports. I also got to work with Spencer Thew one-on-one when he would review my Geotech Reports, which was a great way to learn. When I finally transferred over to the drilling division, I already had a decent background and understanding of what was going on with the drill rigs, reports, etc.

**Q. Did you make decisions that helped you move forward in your ATL career?**

**A.** I would say the biggest decision I made was leaving the comfort and familiarity of being an Engineer in WT, and transferring to CD, which came with a lot of added responsibility and some initial unknown duties. Having assisted CD throughout my first 10 years helped a lot in making the transition successful.

**Q. What project that you worked on is the most memorable, and why?**

**A.** CD4000, NYPA Smart Path in 2016. It was by far the largest scale project I had ever worked on, the largest contract value, and the most coordination. We successfully drilled over 700 borings, along a 70-80 mile transmission line right-of-way, and utilized 3 to 4 drill rigs continuously throughout the entire project. It took a lot of coordination, but was a very rewarding project.

**Q. What do you like the most about the path your ATL career has taken?**

**A.** I like how I started out at the technician level, put in my time, learned the technician side of things, learned the lab side of things, and as I moved up, continued to learn and develop skills that moved me forward in my career. I like that I can say that I have probably experienced most things that ATL has to offer, with the exception of a few new service areas.

**Q. What area of knowledge or experience are you looking to expand?**

**A.** I'm always looking to learn and expand my knowledge of drilling techniques and equipment capabilities, to help our drill crews navigate difficult drilling conditions and make ATL more profitable.

**Q. Is there anything else you would like to add that would help others at ATL to get to the next level?**

**A.** I would say just pay attention and ask questions. Don't be afraid to volunteer for things that you aren't experienced with. Let people know you are interested, and there are many different avenues your career at ATL can take you.

**Q. What do you like to do outside of ATL?**

**A.** Spending quality time with my wife and daughter. We love to travel when possible. I also like to be outdoors. Camping, hiking, fishing, being near the water.