



EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

Jacob Carder
Project Manager



Q. How did you become employed at ATL?

A. I graduated college in May '16 with a degree in Geology and was working a bunch of temporary jobs until I wanted to find something in my field of study. I had a really hard time finding work and actually took a job working for a water quality testing company in Buffalo. A few days before I was going to move to Buffalo, Royce gave me a call and asked if I was interested in an interview. During the interview, I told Royce that I was interested in the job but I needed to know ASAP whether or not I was going to be a good fit since I was moving to Buffalo in a couple days. I got hired the next day as a Technician and have been here for about 6 years now.

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

A. Josh Brown, Royce Knowlton, and a couple past employees were my mentors. They all provided different insights for me and helped get me started in a field that I was pretty green in. They helped me out with HMA, Concrete and Soils, and with our handwritten reports before Metafield. Royce was a huge help for me throughout 2020-2022, when I got offered a PM role and I had a lot of learning to do.

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

A. I spent a few years in the field really building my knowledge of our job and civil engineering. I did not go to school for engineering so a lot of what I have learned has been through this job. I have a better understanding of construction on small duct bank jobs to larger jobs like Amazon. I have been able to use this knowledge to be a better report writer and reviewer and I take pride in the reports we send out to our clients.

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

A. When I was a technician, I was a really hard worker and wanted to be the one everyone could depend on when hard jobs came up or weekend work came up. Whenever weekend work came up, I was always the one jumping on the opportunity for overtime. I was the youngest person in the office when I got hired so I felt I had something to prove. Nobody seemed to like to do paving jobs, so I picked up an HMA certification. I wanted to be able to do any work I could and in turn, I found myself moving forward in my ATL career because I have always been wanting to get more involved.

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

A. From April 2021 until November 2022, I was part of the ROC1 Amazon Project. I worked alongside Mark Wilbur and a handful of different technicians throughout this time. Mark and I did most of the special inspections and scheduling of our technicians along with client relations on site. It is the most memorable to me because it was the first BIG project that I was able to help manage from the field. Having Mark on site was like having another mentor. He was able to teach me so much about our role in the field along with how to handle not so ideal situations when they pop up. The project had a little bit of everything that ATL has to offer in services which allowed for growth of not only my knowledge, but all the technicians on site who have not seen certain services get provided.

Q. Do you have a memorable experience at ATL you would like to share?

A. Back in December '19, I was asked to do some perc testing at Letchworth State Park for a new septic system with a ST employee. I agreed to join even though I had never done the test before, but I figured it would be a great opportunity to learn. I got to meet Mark Wilbur for the first time and I spent about a week with him digging holes and filling them with water. It was memorable because we were working in the woods during a week filled with snow storms, I was with an experienced and friendly ATL colleague, and I was doing work that we do not do every day. I like doing the type of work that comes to the office only once a year because of the fact that it is different. But I think this was the reason I was able to have such a good working relationship with Mark throughout Amazon as well since we had already worked together before.

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

A. My path at ATL went from a Technician, to a Senior Technician, to an Engineering Assistant, to an Assistant Project Manager, and now a Project Manager. I like the path I took because I have been able to work out in the field, understand how the job works, what kind of part our company plays on job sites, along with being able to now communicate with the same clients I spoke with in the field years later. I am able to relate to our technicians and they know they can come to me with questions and I will have an answer for them. When I was a Technician, I felt that easiest people to talk to were the Senior Technicians and Project Managers and I want to be that person for our Technicians.

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

A. I have always had an interest in drilling since college but never found the right job before I came to ATL. I have had a few opportunities to work with drillers from ATL on some projects. I have always been impressed with the efficiency, work ethic, and overall experience of being around the drillers. Some of the places they get to drill at have been kind of unique compared to just working in Downtown Rochester. I am also very open minded and am willing to learn or do any task that is given to me.

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

A. Determination, hard work, efficiency, punctuality, and dependability would be a few things I would focus on. If you are able to use determination to find the right answers or solve problems in the field yourself, that is a good start. Working weekends, nights, or even last minute call ins will help managers see that you are willing to put the work in and want to be challenged. I found that the harder I worked, the more recognition I would get for going above and beyond what was actually expected of me. There is growth in the company to be had, you just need to show the initiative and determination that you are the best fit for the next position.

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

A. I like to keep myself quite busy outside of ATL. I play on a beach volleyball team year-round on Mondays at an indoor facility in Rochester. I play soccer for the North Star Ultras (NSU) that is a Supporter's Group for Rochester New York FC (RNYFC). Being a member of NSU has me traveling to away games in the summer, attending all home games, and helping charity groups in the City of Rochester. I am also a huge English Premier League fan and support Liverpool. My Saturday and Sunday mornings almost always consist of watching the weekend matches. My brother and I take an annual trip every year to watch the US Men's National Team play since we are a part of the American Outlaws Chapter in Rochester. Though there hasn't been much snow this year in Rochester, I will usually get out skiing in the winter as well. The last three winters, I have found myself getting more into golf simulators to help keep my golf swing into the summer. I play almost every weekend in the summer months. I also enjoy camping, hiking, kayaking, and basically anything outside in the summer.



Jacob and brother David in Cincinnati for USA v. Morocco.



Jacob hiking Olympic National Park.