

## OVERVIEW

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**Alabama Technology Network** has the most extensive training and service offerings for business and industry, to ensure the best possible source for your business needs. These include continuous improvement, industrial maintenance & technology, environmental health & safety, food safety, and leadership & management development.

**Our Mission** is to provide industry and business the tools, training and resources to excel.



## Your Success is Our Mission

Recently, ATN started delivering training to companies via webinar due to the recent impact of COVID-19. One of our clients, YKTA took advantage of multiple training courses for their employees. Training was conducted through Microsoft Teams which allowed ATN subject matter experts and participants to interact by voice, video and online chat. Austin Monk, Specialist, HR with YKTA participated in a follow-up Q&A and describes YKTA's overall training experience provided by ATN. What follows is a transcript of the Q&A.

**Tell Me a Little About YKTA:** YKTA is a Tier I automotive supplier for joint venture OEM Mazda-Toyota in Huntsville, AL. Our company is a joint venture between Y-tec, Keylex, & Toyotetsu. Collectively, this joint venture will provide the primary chassis and frame components for Mazda and Toyota vehicles. YKTA produces stamped and welded components, some are E-coated, before being sent to the OEM. The YKTA production facility will be located next door to Mazda-Toyota and connected with two breezeways. This offers our team a unique opportunity to work in tandem with Mazda-Toyota production philosophies, processes, and production metrics. We strive to promote a work culture of experiencing more and spending time to value the opinion of our team members to improve our processes and encourage a safe work environment.

**Why Did YKTA Choose ATN?** "YKTA partnered with ATN to provide online training to enhance skills throughout our company. We currently have 70 team members with expertise ranging from machine maintenance, production control, conveyance, and human resources. Additionally, as we arranged the training, the company and the rest of the country faced the challenges of new virtual workplace with COVID-19 measures in place. ATN was the best fit."

**What Was YKTA's Goal?** "The goal of the training activity was to provide value-added training to our team that met or exceeded needs and would increase our abilities in our start-up. ATN quickly adjusted to meet our virtual training needs and deployed training in several subject areas ranging from communications, Toyota Kata and Hazard Mitigation Strategies."

**How Long Did Training Last?** "The training activities spanned over a 3 week period that easily meshed with the schedule of our team members and that of ATN. ATN made sure it was convenient to our schedule and offered several opportunities for team members to participate."

**How Many Employees Participated:** 40 participants or 57% of current headcount.

**What Training Courses Did YKTA take advantage of and Which ATN Subject Matter Expert Facilitated the Training?**

- A3-Nic Loyd
- Toyota Kata-Nic Loyd
- Communication-Jeff Graham & Gregg Bennett
- Ergonomics-Tim Croley & Jared Choat

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## EH ENVIRONMENTAL, &S HEALTH, & SAFETY UPDATE

The EHS Team was approached by a company with the idea of delivering HAZMAT DOT Training remotely. After much discussion among some of the Team members and the client, and several hours of updating presentations to reflect recent regulatory changes with the 49 CFR and the clients specific regulatory requirements, we decided to move forward with the initiative. This is one of the many new options the EHS Team has initiated to further support clients during a time when congregating for classroom training presents certain challenges. This training course will be delivered a total of 14 times over several weeks, with a target audience of approximately 300 participants.

We have also been preparing to deliver additional webinars, after successfully delivering a two-part session on Ergonomics Introduction and Overview, with using Ergonomic assessment tools. These upcoming webinars will span various EHS topics, delivered in an hour or less, to provide technical data and instruction for those specific topics. We welcome comments and suggestions for any topic that may be a need or of interest to anyone.

The EHS Team prides itself with customizing and delivering courses, even remotely, if needed. Please contact us if you would like to learn more about receiving EHS remotely for your company!

**Contact:** Tim Croley [tcroley@atn.org](mailto:tcroley@atn.org)

## CI CONTINUAL IMPROVEMENT UPDATE

“The Continual Improvement Team continues to adapt to the constraints of the Covid-19 requirement for social distancing by adapting current classes and developing new solutions in an online format. We are currently adapting overview classes for the various quality management systems, as well as writing new class materials for the AIAG-VDA Failure Mode & Effects manual which was recently released. With the addition of a new staff member who has a background in food safety, we will soon be offering training and technical assistance to companies who need assistance in that field as well. Please contact us if there is any way that we can help with issues your company is experiencing in improving quality and eliminating waste.”

**Contact:** Chris Anderson [canderson@atn.org](mailto:canderson@atn.org)  
or Sharon Ingle [single@atn.org](mailto:single@atn.org)

## L&M LEADERSHIP & MD MANAGEMENT DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

During the month of May, ATN's Leadership and Management Development Team had the opportunity to deliver on-line classes. This was a new and exciting experience for us to transition from traditional classroom training to the virtual world. Several of our basic classes can now be delivered on-line and we are working to expand the offerings. If your company has specific needs or requests for online training regarding ATN's Leadership and Management Development curriculum, please contact the LMD Team.

**Contact:** Jeff Graham [jgraham@atn.org](mailto:jgraham@atn.org) or  
Gregg Bennett [gbennett@atn.org](mailto:gbennett@atn.org)

## IM INDUSTRIAL &T MAINTENANCE & TECHNOLOGY UPDATE

Whether you need help with new Industrial Maintenance technologies or help with traditional technologies, we are here to help. We offer hands on training that covers almost all of your industrial maintenance needs. Our team is composed of engineers who have years of experience working in manufacturing. We also have years of experience conducting training in the area of Industrial Maintenance. While we can help you with Robotics, PLCs, and Electrical Motor Controls, we also can help you with Hydraulics, Mechanical Drives, and Pneumatics. We can also keep you up to date with the latest standards of NFPA70E.

While the world is changing around us, we are still here and look forward to working with your company. Please reach out to us to let us know how we can assist you. We look forward to hearing from you soon.

**Contact:** Jeff Lankford [jlankford@atn.org](mailto:jlankford@atn.org) or  
Gina Webb [gwebb@atn.org](mailto:gwebb@atn.org)

# Your Success is Our Mission, Continued from Page 1

- Generations-Jeff Graham & Gregg Bennett
- Hazard Recognition-Tim Croley & Robert Tomlinson
- NFPA70E-Mark Ausbeck, Jon Bowen & Jeff Lankford
- RCA-Chris Anderson & Sharon Ingle

**What Was the End Result?** Overall, YKTA had overwhelming satisfaction in the training experience. In an internal survey deployed by YKTA, 91% of respondents supported and were satisfied with ATN's training efforts. This is a tremendous outcome especially with a new method of training platform over Teams. Ultimately we would have preferred an in-class approach for some of the training; however, due to the COVID-19 circumstances, ATN performed very well in its endeavor.

**What Would You Like to Tell Others About ATN?** ATN offers exceptional training that offers a wide range of value-added training content. Areas of focus range from EHS to Advanced Manufacturing skills and troubleshooting to Leadership and Development. Skilled SMEs of ATN enable training to take place convenient to company needs and offers a level of customization necessary to match processes and production metrics. I highly recommend ATN for their abilities and advocate for the use of the organization for a customized, collaborative training approach to assist meeting your company training needs.

# MATTR: A Timely Resource for Manufacturers

How can small and medium-sized manufacturers (SMMs) gain insights into new technologies to incorporate into their businesses? Develop new applications of existing products? Resolve longstanding issues in production or resolve quality assurance issues in product evaluation? They need MATTR, the MEP-Assisted Technology and Technical Resource.

MATTR, a service offering of NIST MEP (National Institute of Standards and Technology Manufacturing Extension Partnership), provides a mechanism for manufacturers to connect with the technical experts, facilities and other resources of the NIST laboratories. Accessible only through the MEP National Network™ of which NIST MEP is the federal partner, the MATTR service is open to even the smallest manufacturers in the country via their local MEP Center. Center representatives are available for on-site evaluations designed to uncover how advanced manufacturing technologies can impact a manufacturing business – and to recommend feasible options specific to a company's operation and workforce. If a need arises for technical assistance that might be available from the NIST labs, the Center representative submits a MATTR request to start the process.

Research occurring at the NIST labs covers many areas in current and future manufacturing technologies important in the United States... 

# ATN Would Like to Welcome Our New Employee, TANESHA RICHBURG

We are excited to announce our newest employee, Tanesha Richburg.

Tanesha will serve as the NetSuite Administrator with ATN. Based at the central office in Montgomery, Tanesha will manage and maintain the NetSuite ERP system for ATN and work with various business areas such as operations, purchasing, finance, and NIST/MEP regulations. Tanesha will be responsible for all aspects of NetSuite including implementation, upgrades, and updates, configuration, coordination, control, maintenance, troubleshooting, security, usage monitoring and development.

Prior to joining ATN, Tanesha Richburg was an Accounts Examiner for Examiners of Public Accounts and responsible for auditing state entities.

ATN Executive Director, Keith Phillips stated, "I'm very excited to have Tanesha as part of the ATN. Her expertise and talent will be a great addition to the team, and I know she will greatly contribute to the organization."

A graduate from Troy University, Tanesha Richburg holds a master's degree in Business Administration with an emphasis in Accounting. When not hard at work, she enjoys reading and spending time with her family.

**Welcome, Tanesha!**



## INSIDE THE NETWORK

Click the map to learn more about each ATN location including staff and contact information.

## 2019 IMPACTS & RESULTS

- New & Retained Jobs: **2,739**
- Total New Investment: **\$57,249,589**
- Cost Savings: **\$66,083,708**
- New & Retained Sales: **\$303,728,160**
- Total Client Impact: **\$427,061,457**

