

PROFILE OF A GA CATT GRADUATE: Yannick Christein with Nesper International

August of 2019 marked the beginning of Yannick Christein's three-year apprenticeship with Nesper International, a metal products manufacturer serving the automotive and electronics industries. Conveniently located in Yannick's hometown of LaGrange, Georgia, Nesper was the perfect spot to start on-the-job training while finishing his studies at Troup High School. The following fall, Yannick enrolled at West Georgia Technical College where he earned his Associate's degree in Science and Engineering.



After passing his Advanced Manufacturing Technician exams in July 2021, Yannick was able to graduate from the GACATT apprenticeship program and join a group of only seven others in the state of Georgia who have earned their DIHK certification for Advanced Manufacturing in the field of Production Engineering. In an interview with the GACC South, he shared more about his experience in the program.

Each GACATT apprentice is paired with a mentor, who serves as the main point of contact at their respective company. For Yannick, it was Steffen Langhof, Head Tool and Die Engineer at Nesper International. Langhof was able to establish a good rapport with Yannick, who stated: **“We had a good student-teacher relationship. He was able to train me using the same techniques he learned from during his apprenticeship in Germany.”** While Yannick's physics and engineering background paired well with the hands-on mechanical training at Nesper, he gives Langhof a lot of credit for helping him pass his exams and earn his DIHK certification.

“Having a mentor, who was willing to teach and pass down information, was crucial to my success in the program.”

Yannick holds the GACATT apprenticeship program in high regard and thinks the program **“is great for anyone, especially younger adults that enjoy learning through hands-on training and want to work in precision manufacturing.”** Graduating from the program has given him more opportunities to advance and be promoted in the company. He plans to kick off his career as a Tool and Die Engineer at Nesper but is excited to see the impact earning his DIHK certification will have on his future endeavors.

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