John E. Gadson

Deputy Executive Director, MEP

Atlanta Airlines Terminal Corporation



John E. Gadson is the Deputy Executive Director, MEP for the Atlanta Airlines Terminal Corporation (AATC). As the newest member of AATC’s executive team, John is responsible for the overall maintenance and operations of the structures and the mechanical, electrical, and plumbing (MEP) systems for the Central Passenger Terminal Complex at Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport.

John is originally from South Carolina. After graduating valedictorian of his high school class, John earned his bachelor’s degree in Electrical Engineering from the University of South Carolina in 1993. He immediately went on to complete his master’s degree in Business Administration with a concentration in Operations from the University of South Carolina in 1995. Currently, he is pursuing a doctorate degree in Business Administration with a concentration in Project Management from Capella University.

In 1995, John started his technical career as an entry-level process improvement engineer with Milliken & Company in Barnwell, SC. Shortly after joining Milliken, John was assigned to the commissioning team for the startup of the rebuilt Live Oak Plant that had been destroyed by fire in Lagrange, GA. Upon successfully completing that project, he returned to Milliken’s Barnwell Plant where he acquired extensive facilities management and leadership experiences as he assumed environmental, building & utilities, maintenance, and project engineering positions. Those valuable experiences prepared John for the challenges that came with his promotion to the leadership role as Plant Engineer for several of Milliken facilities in Union, South Carolina.

In 2000, John moved to Atlanta and started his career with the State of Georgia when he became the Director of Building Services for the Georgia World Congress Center, the fourth largest convention center in the US. John led 105 full-time employees and over 200 part-time employees of the custodial, grounds, and operations department. In 2002, he helped to successfully bring the new Building C addition on line while reducing his departmental operating budget.

In 2006, John continued his career with the State of GA when he accepted the Director of Facilities and Auxiliary Services position at DeKalb Technical College in Clarkston, GA. As the director of facilities, he led and directed the maintenance and operational activities of the facilities for one of the oldest and most respected of Georgia’s technical colleges. John also oversaw the college’s auxiliary services, which included risk management, safety, vehicle maintenance/management, contractor & contract administration, shipping & receiving, and inventory/asset management. While with DeKalb Technical College, John worked with State of Georgia agencies and various contractors to implement millions of dollars in repairs, renovations, and construction projects, including a $25 million classroom building and multi-purpose building construction project.

In 2011, John made another career move within the State of GA when he assumed the Director of Facilities Operations position at Georgia College & State University in Milledgeville, GA. There he oversaw the facilities and grounds maintenance, custodial services, safety, vehicle maintenance, and contractor & contract administration for Georgia’s Public Liberal Arts University. John successfully led his department of over 140 staff members through a re-organization process that moved the department from a trade orientation to a zone maintenance setup. The new departmental structure drastically improved customer services and increased planned maintenance of the college’s facilities and equipment.

In January 2013, John left his career in public service to pursue his current role at AATC, a private not for profit organization. He is excited about the opportunity that AATC provides him to utilize his knowledge, skills, and abilities to help lead the organization that maintains the world’s busiest airport from good to great.