



ANDREA BOWMAN

Advanced Technology Group,
a Cognizant company



Job Title

Software Developer



Hometown

Bonney Lake, WA



Education

BS in Business Management and Marketing from the University of Montana

What do you do?

I am a Software Developer in the B2B Commerce practice. This team builds out online storefronts for businesses selling to other businesses. Since Commerce is a very visual experience, I learned both front-end and back-end development (through project experience and formalized training offered at ATG).

What did you do before your career at ATG?

I was manager at a CrossFit Gym.

Why did you choose to pursue a career in technology?

I felt that ATG fell into my lap. I was leading a 4:15pm class at the gym (which was usually the gym's busiest class), but only one person came. This individual was currently working at ATG – he asked what I was interested in doing and I mentioned Project Management. I didn't know much about it but knew I liked leading people and keeping tasks organized. I found myself running into the “needing experience to get a job but not being able to get experience without having a job” dilemma.

I learned about ATG's offering 12-week training to new team members. Once I got into the training, I enjoyed the technical skills and was learning more than I realized I would. I did not do “exceptionally well” during the coding weeks of training, however, I really enjoyed the challenge and how satisfying it was when my code finally ran without errors.

What advice would you give yourself starting your career?

1. It's not too hard but be patient – you can't learn everything at once. At the end of the training program, I remember being interested in being a developer, but I thought that the learning curve was too steep and it would take years before I would get there. Frankly, I was really just scared and wasn't sure if I would be able to do it. Thankfully I had some really wonderful people nudge me in that direction. However, once I started going down the developer path, I was overwhelmed by all the different languages and skills that I needed to learn. If I could – I would tell myself to relax and to start small. The best way to eat an elephant is one bite at a time.
2. Another important piece of advice I would give anyone starting their career - be the person that everyone wants to have on their team. This can be through building strong relationships with your team mates, always going out of your way to help others/answer questions, producing high quality work or always trying to go above and beyond. You'll be surprised how far your reputation supersedes you. I have been given some really amazing opportunities at ATG from people that I have never worked with (or even had a conversation with) just because I had other people speaking highly of me.