

KIA MAINTENANCE CERTIFICATION PROGRAM

Filling the high-tech manufacturing skills gap



SUMMARY

- Kia partners with local Georgia-based groups to train a pipeline of workers for its facility.
- Working with the local West Georgia Technical College, current Kia Team Members can earn industrial maintenance certification.

Kia Georgia, Inc. opened a \$1.8 billion automotive assembly facility in West Point, Georgia in 2009, bringing more than 3,000 manufacturing jobs and 14,000 supplier jobs to the area. With this new facility, the demand for skilled workers was paramount, and Kia committed to developing its future workforce the Kia way.

To meet this need, Kia partnered with Georgia Quick Start, and together constructed the \$20 million Kia Georgia Training Center (KGTC). This 70,000 square foot facility was designed and equipped to provide pre-employment assessment and job-specific training for Team Members. The KGTC houses robotics, welding and electronics labs, classrooms and equipment for training on state-of-the-art programmable logic controllers (PLCs).



"The Maintenance Certification Program has been a great success for Kia Georgia, providing a proven pathway for current Team Members who are interested in a career in maintenance as well as those who wish to be future Kia Georgia Team Members."

Staurt Countess, Kia Georgia
President and CEO

Furthering its strong commitment to its own team and this community's workforce of tomorrow, the company developed a maintenance certification program (MCP), in collaboration with Georgia Quick Start, addressing Kia's need for qualified and well-trained maintenance Team Members.

The program has since shifted, now being implemented as part of the West Georgia Technical College's Precision Manufacturing and Maintenance Certification Program to provide a steady stream of qualified candidates, filling the ever-growing need for maintenance team members at Kia Georgia and its suppliers. In 2021, all Kia students who completed the Precision Manufacturing Program were transitioned to full-time maintenance Team Members at Kia's West Point facility, continuing the success of the partnership nearly a decade after its inception and providing well-trained team members the Kia way.

