



### Autumn Kirby

Production and Quality Control  
Coordinator  
Marla Aaron Jewelry

### Education

B.S. in Merchandising and Design  
Tennessee Tech University

### Lagniappe: A Little Something Extra

Learn what you like and what you don't like and find your personal path. If I have learned anything over the years, it is that nothing is linear. This life is yours and yours alone. Take the risks and do the thing no one was expecting of you, I don't think you'll regret it. I definitely don't.

## Production and Quality Control Coordinator

Hello! My name is Autumn Kirby, I am 25 years old, and I live in New York City. I graduated in 2019 with a bachelor's degree in Merchandising and Design from Tennessee Tech University and I am the in-house production and quality control coordinator for Marla Aaron Jewelry.

### Uniqueness of Career Journey

My career is unique in the fact that my day to day life involves dissecting, improving and standardizing the product development of fine jewelry. I have had a far from traditional career path up to this point, and I am actually quite thankful for that. When I graduated from school, I was positive that I would stay and grow in the apparel market of the fashion industry, as I focused heavily on clothing construction while earning my degree. After college, I went to work for Kohl's as the visual merchandising manager for one of their local locations. I learned quickly that the visual career path was not for me. As a breath of fresh air from my 9-5, I got a part time job at Kendra Scott, and quickly fell in love with jewelry and accessories, but more specifically the quality of them and how they should function. This led to major growth within the company until I was ready to break away from my hometown of Nashville and move to New York City

### Inspiration for Career Choice

While job searching in New York, I had not tied myself to staying in the jewelry industry, but it somehow was the only thing I kept coming back to. I moved in July of 2021 and started my job as a Production Assistant at DEH Jewelry Solutions. Through this opportunity, I have had the opportunity to work hands-on with over 35 designers within the jewelry industry and have been a part of the consulting process that leads to full production of their line. I have also learned how to communicate with production partners both locally and internationally, gained knowledge in the quality control process, learned to decipher stone types and qualities, studied the CAD development process and so much more. This is the role that has truly set me up to excel in my career and has led me to my newest opportunity at Marla Aaron.

### Skills Vital to Success in Career

The skills I have learned in this industry will only continue to grow and develop as my career progresses. Working on 47th Street, the diamond district, I am able to see and be a part of an ever-evolving industry and the knowledge to gain from this is infinite. It is amazing to see the constant adjustments being made to create more sustainable and beautifully curated pieces. From stone carving to setting styles to proprietary development to the recycling of gold and so much more, I am never unimpressed by how innovative this industry can be

### Best Advice to Someone Considering This Career

This industry is beautiful and growing. I would say paving a way for yourself here, as in any other industry, is about getting out there and being in it. Taking the time to do your research is important but what has gotten me to where I am is being around those who have been here before me, asking constant questions, and continuously asking myself "what's next?" and "How can I keep growing?" If I can offer any advice to someone interested in this career path it would be to apply for internships and put yourself out there.