

Bill's Building Blocks

Hiring Competent Supply Chain Professionals

APICS just approved my application to be certified at the Fellow level for CSCP and for CLTD. I am now one of the first and few APICS Triple Fellow Certified members: CFPIM, CSCP-F, CLTD-F. In the past APICS recognized CPIM certified (Certified in Production and Inventory Management) members at the Fellow level (CFPIM) if they could demonstrate outstanding contribution to the field from speaking, publishing, teaching, and service. Now APICS has added the possibility of members who are currently CSCP certified (Certified Supply Chain Professional) and /or CLTD certified (Certified in Logistics, Transportation, and Distribution) to apply for Fellow level distinction. This is based on the member documenting their contribution and service to the field over the past three years. The application must also include a Letter of Recommendation from an existing APICS Fellow. Points are awarded for being a featured presenter, for publication, for classroom instruction of APICS related material, and for APICS volunteer service to APICS Headquarters and/or to the Chapter.

When employers look to hire qualified practitioners, a candidate with APICS certification is a preferred hire. CPIM's are competent in the deep vertical operations management of the factory and the distribution center, CSCP's are competent in the wide horizontal networks of supply chains, and CLTD's are competent in the interconnection of transportation and warehousing across the supply chain.

Certification is a significant investment of time and money. WIIFM: What's In It For Me?

- It demonstrates your breath of knowledge.
- It enables your ability to multiply shared work experiences with others.
- It provides leadership opportunity.
- It expands your networking.
- It is the satisfaction of helping the advancement of others.

Professor William McLaury at the Rutgers Business School says, "The United States will create an incremental 270,000 supply chain jobs annually through 2020 with supply chain related training and education only producing 75,000 workers annually." This growing talent gap reflects the retirement of knowledgeable baby boomers and the increasing realization of the integration of supply chains in every aspect of daily life. The job opportunity is real. APICS certification can be a pathway to your advancement.

©2018 William T. Walker, CFPIM, CSCP-F, CLTD-F, CIRM has 40plus years of practitioner experience, authored *Supply Chain Construction* and *Supply Chain Architecture*, and teaches Supply Chain Engineering at NYU Tandon and Demand Planning at Rutgers. He is a 35plus year APICS member and APICS E&R Foundation past president. Email: wt_walker@verizon.net