A Personal Success Story: William T. Walker, CFPIM, CSCP-F, CLTD-F, CIRM

After graduating Lehigh University with a BSEE, a tour of duty in Vietnam, ten years as a design engineer/production engineer at Hewlett-Packard, and graduating Lehigh again with a MSIE; I found myself a production manager at HP with little idea why so many production parts were backordered? In 1980 APICS member Itzhak Priel invited me to a George Plossl presentation. A year later I had joined the West Jersey Chapter and had earned CPIM certification. Over the next ten years I served APICS as West Jersey Chapter President, Region 2 Vice President, Vice President of Education-SIGS, and APICS Education & Research Foundation President. I was awarded the APICS Society Voluntary Service Award for 1999.

For the next twenty years HP's business needs drove me from managing product development teams to building international supply chains. I became a CFPIM in 1989, and HP management promoted me to the combined role of Purchasing/ Materials Manager. CIRM, announced in 1993, was as close as one could get to a supply chain certification. I studied to be among the first to become CIRM certified. Business was tough; HP management decided to enter a new market which required a new supply chain. I became the supply chain architect for this new venture when the world didn't know how to spell "supply chain". Then HP spun off Agilent Technologies, and I became the division's Asian Transfer Program Manager to move 100M$ of manufacturing from Rockaway, NJ to Penang, Malaysia. But as the transfer was successful, I became unemployed for the next seventeen months. In 2004 I went to work for Siemen's Fire Products Division as Director of Supply Chain Management. This lasted fifteen months, and I was unemployed again. During this time CSCP certification was announced, and I studied to be among the first CSCP candidates. My last seven years in industry was spent as Director of Supply Chain Management for StarTrak Information Technologies, LLC. StarTrak is a virtual enterprise managing the design and manufacture of instrumentation and tracking software for refrigerated containers. Throughout my career I performed many different jobs and relied heavily on my APICS education.

Through my APICS network I was invited to write the Logistics Chapter for the *Production & Inventory Control Handbook* edited by Jim Greene. In the spring of 1998, I approached the APICS Certification & Curriculum Council with a one page list of supply chain and logistics topics that were not covered in the APICS body of knowledge. I then coauthored the monograph, *Supply Chain Management: Principles and Techniques for the Practitioner*, with Karen Alber published by the APICS E&R Foundation. In early 1999 Dave Rivers assembled eight subject matter experts, including me, to write the APICS Advanced Supply Chain Management courseware on CD-ROM. In September 2000, APICS President Carol Ptak made the first APICS World Wide Webcast to introduce ASCM; this predated CSCP certification courseware. Through my APICS network I was

invited to write the Supply Chain Networks Chapter for Kevin McCormack's book, *Supply Chain Networks and Business Process Orientation*. During my first unemployment I wrote the book *Supply Chain Architecture* published in October 2004. After teaching supply chain to students for a few years I wrote the book *Supply Chain Construction* published in August 2015.

Before retiring from industry, APICS friend Blair Williams invited me to guest lecture at New York University. I am currently Adjunct Professor of Supply Chain Engineering at NYU Tandon School of Engineering in Brooklyn where I teach evening classes to graduate students majoring in Industrial Engineering. After retiring from industry, I also became a Part Time Lecturer at Rutgers Business School in Newark where I teach evening classes to undergraduate students majoring in Supply Chain Management. Since 2010, I have taught supply chain topics to more than 550 students. Many students have become involved in APICS and CSCP certification. In order to continue giving back and serving as a role model of life-long learning for students, I decided last year to study and be among the first CLTD certified, and this year to become CSCP-F and CLTD-F. Now, at age 70, I have been an APICS member for half of my life, and am one of very few APICS members to be Triple Fellow Certified.

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