

# Expanding Our Knowledge

This is another in a series of interviews with working LP professionals who have earned their LPQ or LPC certifications from the Loss Prevention Foundation (LPF) to hear in their own words why they pursued certification and how it has benefited their careers.

## Why did you decide to pursue certification?

I was seventeen when I started out as a store detective. I worked for a great company and wanted to grow within the organization, but I always hit a road block because I lacked the experience and education. I needed something that would make my resume stand out from the others. Having the certification was that one credential I thought would push me to the top of the list. It shows my desire to learn and grow, it was industry specific, and it gave me the ability to speak the language of the business beyond LP. I was fortunate that the company I worked for provided continuing education benefits to associates. With or without company support though, I was determined to achieve the LPC certification.

**The certification process was created by LP professionals for the LP community. It is true that some of the course content can be found elsewhere, but these other courses don't teach the meat and potatoes of the retail business the way the LPF certification does.**

## Was there something specific that influenced your decision?

Around the time when the LPF was building their foundation for certification, I had the opportunity to be part of a committee that was tasked with helping to develop some of the course content and exam questions. The onsite work sessions gave me the opportunity to network and build new relationships with other LP professionals. What I learned from those conversations with my peers is that our stories were very similar even though our job paths and employers were different. The common issue we faced was that we had no resource for professional courses that were focused on the business as a whole and not just loss prevention. Most importantly, I felt an obligation to myself—how could I sit on a committee and encourage others to go for the certification if I wasn't certified myself?

## Interview with Karen VanBrunt, LPC



Karen VanBrunt, LPC, has over thirty-six years of experience in loss prevention. Her first six years were spent in the specialty sector before moving over to grocery where she spent the next twenty-four years holding various positions at Pathmark. Following an acquisition, she was provided an opportunity to transition to the solution provider side with Agilence, where she uses her LP skills to provide retailers with valuable auditing and consulting services.

## How has going through the certification process influenced the way that you approach your job?

Just prior to starting the LPC, I transitioned from the retail sector over to the vendor side due to an acquisition. It was a pretty scary thing at first having lived and breathed LP in retail for thirty years and now finding myself in a completely different sector. The more I thought about it, the more I realized that this was an opportunity for me to continue using what I learned from my certification.

My current position still involves working daily with clients in the retail sector. In every aspect of my position, I can apply what I have learned through the certification process to my job. From demonstration to kickoff, training, auditing, enterprise-wide analysis, and leading regular meetings, the LPC serves to show my clients that I know and understand all aspects of their business. I always get excited and acknowledge when I notice the LPC next to a customer's name during email exchanges. I'm proud to have that designation next to my name as well.

## Do you think certification offers a professional advantage over those that have not been certified?

Absolutely. The certification process was created by LP professionals for the LP community. It is true that some of the course content can be found elsewhere, but these other courses don't teach the meat and potatoes of the retail business the way the LPF certification does. Every person that played a part in helping the LPF to grow lived and breathed the retail or LP business, and the value they provided cannot be created by folks that have not walked in their shoes.

## Newly Certified

Following are individuals who recently earned their certifications.

### Recent LPC Recipients

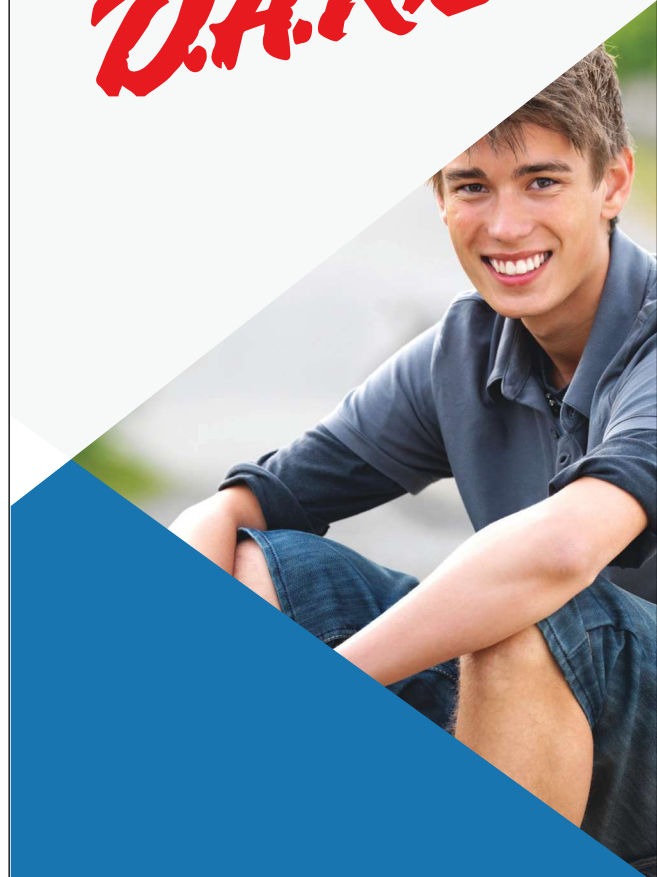
Ignazio Amato, LPC, Shopper Drug Mart  
 Garrett Atkins, LPC, Ahold USA  
 Nicholas Bader, LPC, Ahold USA  
 James Ballard, LPC, Ahold USA  
 Darin Barton, LPC, Lowe's  
 Silvana Baxter, LPC, Ahold USA  
 Anthony Bickley, LPC, Lowe's  
 Jeffrey Bucher, LPC, Lowe's  
 Jonathon Burriss, LPC, Walmart Stores

Jonathan Carroll, LPC, Brookstone  
 Damon Chappell, LPC, Lowe's  
 Dustin Chenco, LPC, Ahold USA  
 Ellis Clark, LPC, Lowe's  
 Aaron DeVisser, LPC, Walmart Stores  
 Christopher Duke, LPC, Dots  
 Stephanie Fedorowicz, LPC, Lowe's  
 Rodolfo Galan, LPC CFI, Banfield Pet Hospital  
 Brad Gilbert, LPC, Lowe's  
 Jose Gomez, LPC, Lowe's  
 Kevin Graham, LPC, SGBD UK & Ireland  
 Susan Greco, LPC, Walgreens  
 Christopher Haye, LPC, Brookshire Grocery  
 Ryan Haysley, LPC, JCPenney  
 Christopher Hopkins, LPC, Ahold USA  
 Nicholas Horst, LPC, Lowe's  
 Polly Kelly, LPC, Lowe's  
 Gregory Kostura, LPC, Lowe's  
 Brenda Lafferty, LPC, Ahold USA  
 Marc Lambert, LPC, Brookstone  
 Justin Libecap, LPC, Lowe's  
 Beth Link, LPC, Nike North America  
 Mary-Louise Paucke Lovell, LPC, Lowe's  
 Jose Martinez, LPC, Lowe's  
 Stephen Melia, LPC,  
 Dayna Mitchell, LPC, Rite Aid  
 David Neer, LPC, Lowe's  
 Todd O'Hara, LPC, Giant Food Stores  
 Andrew Ramos, LPC, Lowe's  
 Jason Richardson, LPC  
 Michael Riley, LPC, Lowe's  
 Ruben Salcido, LPC, Lowe's  
 Robert Simonian, LPC, Lowe's  
 Devon Sloan, LPC, JCPenney  
 Scott Snider, LPC, Brookshire Grocery  
 Bob Straight, LPC, Ahold USA  
 Jeffrey Tarantino, LPC, Lowe's  
 Sarah Torrez, LPC, Aeropostale  
 Daniel Tucker, LPC, Walmart Stores  
 Jessica Verran, LPC, Lowe's  
 Bradley Weller, LPC, Ahold USA  
 Shayla Werner, LPC, Rite Aid  
 Joseph Wojcik, LPC, Lone Star College

#### Recent LPQ Recipients

William Alvarez, LPQ, Goodwill Industries  
 Jerry Benabe, LPQ, Goodwill Industries  
 Scott Brenneman, LPQ, Sheetz  
 Jorge Checo, LPQ, Gap  
 Rebeccah Dern, LPQ, Vector Security Services  
 Damir Gazizov, LPQ, Hermes of Paris  
 James Jones, Jr., LPQ, Target Stores  
 Jeff Lee, LPQ, Columbia Sportswear  
 Philip McCormick, LPQ, Pet Supermarket  
 Walter Miley, LPQ, Goodwill Industries  
 Andre Miller, LPQ, Rite Aid  
 Brandon Schultz, CFI, LPQ, Bartell Drugs  
 Brandon Smith, LPQ, Walmart Stores  
 Raulston Tucker, LPQ, TJX  
 Richard Turner, LPQ  
 Elizabeth Zavala, LPQ, HEB/Central Market ■

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