

Separating Yourself from the Pack

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.

What influenced you to pursue certification?

I think that if you are serious about your career, you have to be willing to do more to achieve more. I am on a mission of personal growth to be the best, most well-rounded professional that I can be, and the LPC helps me pursue that mission. My company offered to pay for the process as well, and I believe that if your company believes that much in the program and is willing to offer that kind of opportunity, you take it. I earned my certification in October of 2011.

Was the course what you expected?

Somewhat, but it was a rigorous course and more than I expected. There was a tremendous amount of information to digest, and a number of areas were covered that I am not typically exposed to within the realm of my current responsibilities. It covered the loss prevention subject matter that I expected, but it also covered history, law, leadership, safety, and security subjects that I was not as familiar with and wasn't expecting. The course gave me a greater understanding of issues and areas of loss prevention that I hadn't experienced, which I feel provides me with a significant advantage as I move forward in my career.

I travel a great deal in my current position, and the coursework was easily accessible. While I was free to set my own pace, I tried to set aside time each day to work through the course content leading up to the exam to ensure that it was fresh in my mind. I felt the program content covered a broad spectrum of topics that most every LP professional would encounter regardless of the specific business you would be involved in. The exam was tough but fair. I would recommend that you take the necessary steps to get prepared and make sure you get plenty of rest prior to taking the exam.

What benefits have you seen from taking the course?

I have a broader view of the entire loss prevention profession than I had prior to becoming certified. It changes your perspective and allows you to consider other potential avenues of loss prevention and professional development that you may not have

Interview with Troy Young, LPC



Troy Young, LPC, is currently a divisional loss prevention manager with AutoZone. He began his 16-year career in the LP industry as a supply-chain LP manager with AutoZone, and also served as regional LP manager and divisional investigator before his promotion to divisional LP manager in 2007. Troy holds a bachelor of science in criminal justice/law enforcement administration from Cedarville University.

considered prior to taking the course. I serve on an industry committee with many companies that have different approaches to the business. While I may not have direct experience with their specific approaches to the profession, I feel like I can better understand where they are coming from as a result of the certification process.

I believe that you get out of your career what you put into it. When you're willing to put forth a little extra effort, it can make a big difference in so many important ways.

If you could offer one key takeaway to someone currently considering getting certified, what would it be?

Do you want to be an average performer, or are you willing to take a progressive and serious approach to your profession? If you want a broader understanding of loss prevention and to grow personally and professionally, then the LPC or LPQ will help you achieve those goals.

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Going through the program gave me a sense of accomplishment. Many courses or certifications require you to show up and participate, and you pass. This certification is something that is earned—and something to be proud of. It will make you a better LP professional by helping to fill in the gaps of knowledge that you may not have been exposed to otherwise.

Would you recommend certification to others?

Definitely. All of us have a responsibility to our companies, our positions, and our professional development. But all things being equal, I think certification demonstrates a willingness to separate oneself from the pack by learning all aspects of the industry. It

expands your understanding of loss prevention, makes you more marketable, and shows how serious you are about your professional and personal growth.

Coupled with performance, it will cause others within your organization and the industry to take notice, which should lead to greater opportunity. I believe that people who choose to become certified are serving notice that they are serious about their careers and want more out of them.

Newly Certified

Following are individuals who recently earned their certifications.

Recent LPC Recipients

Justin Baker, LPC, Lowe's
Kenneth Boston, LPC, DICK'S Sporting Goods
James Contakos, LPC, MA, CFI, Sterling Jewelers
John Copen, LPC, HomeGoods
Martin Culshaw, LPC, Wegmans Food Markets
Kevin Earley, LPC, Rite Aid
Kimberly Fleshner, LPC, PVH Corp
Mary-Elaine Floyd, LPC, Delhaize America
Jonathan Graham, LPC, Lowe's
Anthony Hastings, LPC, HomeGoods
Brian Hayes, LPC, Sterling Jewelers
Lawrence Hartman, LPC, Burlington Coat Factory
Mark Hibbs, LPC, JCPenney
Michelle Jennings, LPC, JCPenney
Michael Keenan, LPC, The Gap, Inc.
Millie Kresevich, LPC, Luxottica Retail
Leo Lussier, LPC, CVS Caremark
Lucas Moeller, LPC, Lowe's
Willie Oliver, LPC, Lowe's
George Ozog, LPC, Lowe's
Larry Robbins, LPC, Lowe's
Vincent Romano, LPC, Home Depot
Blanchard Sigmon, LPC, Lowe's
James Theisen, LPC, Lowe's
Jose Varela, III LPC, CVS Caremark
Larry Walker, LPC, Lowe's
Denise Zeiders, LPC, American Eagle Outfitters

Recent LPQ Recipients

Massimiliano Alfieri, LPQ, CPO, Granite Guard
Byron Barrett, LPQ, Dollar Tree Stores
Jeremy Bauer, LPQ, Festival Foods
Francesca Boyea, LPQ, Genesco
Juanita Calloway, LPQ, American Eagle Outfitters
Ryan Clay, LPQ, T.J. Maxx
Jamie Cornes, LPQ, Caffè Nero
Kennard Dilworth, LPQ, Publix
Danielle Gajewski, LPQ, Publix
Juan Guerrero, LPQ, Hermes of Paris
Ryan Mallory, LPQ, Cabela's
Danielle Martinez, LPQ, Publix
Elisa Owens, LPQ, 7-Eleven
Whitney Stevens, LPQ, 7-Eleven
Bradley Susral, LPQ, G4S ■

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