

The Pieces Are Coming Together

New Team Member, New Board, New Partnership and LPCqualified Rollout

Recently I was putting together a puzzle with my six-year old daughter, and as we were getting started she looked at the pieces and then looked at the box and said “I can’t wait to make these pieces look like that picture.” Her comment made me think about the Foundation and what we have in front of us this year: a new organization to get up an running, new education courses to develop, new tests to create, a maintenance program for the certifications, reaching new talent to draw into our industry; needless to say we still have some pieces we need to put together. But as I look back on the past several months I am excited by the pieces of the puzzle that we have put in place. The first key piece we put in place was Gene Smith.

As you have read in prior articles, one of the main roles of the LPCqualified certification is to create a larger pool of qualified candidates for our profession to draw from. As someone who has a long history of identifying talent in all levels of the loss prevention industry, Gene was a great fit to lead the Foundations efforts in developing this new talent pool. Gene will start his task by working with the academic, law enforcement and military communities to spread the good word about the loss prevention industry and all we have to offer.

As part of spreading the good word about our industry Gene will be working with many of you in the industry to develop, what we hope will be our industry’s career “pitch”. In order to draw new folks into our profession, we must make them aware of all great things a career in loss prevention can offer. So when Gene calls you spend some time with him and help us create a great story to tell about our industry.

The Foundations Board

Another key piece of the Foundation’s “puzzle”, was the formation of our Board of Directors. While conversations are still underway with several candidates, I cannot tell you how thrilled I was with the positive reactions of many of the leaders in the loss prevention industry to our invitation. We have received commitments from the senior leaders of loss prevention from department stores, discount stores, drug stores, supermarkets, food service stores, automotive aftermarket stores, sporting goods stores, apparel stores, office supply stores, a transportation company, a leading technology provider, as well as two vendor partners from the loss prevention industry. By having such a diverse Board that governs the Foundations actions it is our hope that we can create education that will benefit everyone in loss prevention, not just a particular segment.

The Foundations Board will have its first meeting in March, where we will confirm all of the new directors and set the course for the Foundation for the next twelve months. Having been around not-for-profit boards for over 10 years I cannot tell you how excited I am to work with such a great group of leaders.

A Partnership

Since the announcement of the LPCqualified and LPCcertified last April there has been some talk about how the creation of these new certifications will impact certifications already in place. As we have stated in past articles, we do not believe that our certifications will compete with other certifications in place. We believe that the programs we are creating are unique and designed to give retail loss prevention, in all of its many forms, two powerful education programs that will create more well-rounded loss prevention professionals.

With that in mind we want to partner with other certification bodies that compliment our mission. Which I was so pleased that in February we were able to announce our partnership with the Center for Interviewer Standards and Assessment and Wicklander & Zulawski (provider of the Certified Forensic Interviewer (CFI)). We believe that working with the CISA & WZ folks to ensure that our programs compliment each other is an important step for the industry.

The Rollout of the LPCqualified

After nearly nine months of hard work, the LPCqualified is on schedule for launch in late April. The past several months have seen review by the education committees, legal review and Board approval. Also, we have several volunteers, who for the past couple of weeks have been “test-driving” the coursework to make sure that everything functions in the correct manner.

Work has also begun on the test for the LPCqualified certification and would be in place within a few months. We will be enlisting the help of industry, academic, as well as testing experts to put this test together. We will also have the test “test-driven” to ensure that it is a fair vehicle for evaluating what was learned in the coursework.

The LPCcertified development is moving forward with modules coming back to the education committees in the late spring. The LPCcertified is still on track for its late summer launch. Please visit our website at losspreventioncertification.org for the latest on both of our certifications.

Parting thoughts

As you can see, piece by piece the puzzle is coming together. In the end we hope to see a picture of a loss prevention industry that is stronger, deeper and better educated than today, but we will need your help to keep putting these pieces together.

We would be remiss if we did not recognize all of the people in the loss prevention industry, especially those on our educational committees who have worked so hard to get us where we are today. So thank you for your efforts, now let's finish this puzzle.