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When and why did you join CSCMP?	I joined CSCMP on 9/18/2018 when I started attending CSCMP ARS and EDGE meetings. I joined because I was working on Supply Chain Management Research and I wanted to belong to a community of Supply Chain Professionals, who share similar goals and vision as myself so we can share ideas and create opportunities to work together.
What advice do you have for new CSCMP members on how they can maximize their membership value? What membership benefit do you find most valuable?	<p>To maximize your CSCMP membership, engage actively with the CSCMP network, events, and resources. Attend local roundtables and the annual ARS and EDGE Conference to build connections and gain insights. Leverage educational resources like whitepapers and webinars, as well as certifications such as the SCPro to enhance your expertise.</p> <p>In my opinion, networking and learning opportunities are among the most valuable benefits, so be proactive in participating and contributing. This approach ensures you make the most of your membership while advancing your career in supply chain management.</p>

What has been the most impactful connection you have made through CSCMP membership?

The most impactful connection I made has been a full network of great colleagues, who also became great friends, through my many years of attending the Academic Research Symposium (ARS), which takes place right before the full EDGE conference. This friendship and connection, is very valuable, as we work together to enhance supply chain management knowledge.

How did you get into supply chain management/logistics?

My journey into supply chain management began with a strong foundation in Civil Engineering at Auburn University, where I developed a passion for understanding and optimizing infrastructure. After graduating, I spent four years in consulting in Tampa, FL, addressing challenges in urban planning and transportation systems. This experience sparked my curiosity about how goods and people move efficiently through complex networks, motivating me to pursue a Ph.D. in Transportation Engineering at the University of Florida. It was during my doctoral studies that I uncovered the intricate and impactful world of supply chain management, where transportation, logistics, and infrastructure converge to shape global commerce and everyday life.

Through my academic and professional journey, I became captivated by the challenges of optimizing supply chains for efficiency, resilience, and sustainability. My research on freight systems and distribution networks deepened my understanding of the critical role supply chains play in connecting industries and communities. Each step-from my early engineering studies to consulting and advanced research-has built on the last, fueling my passion for tackling the complexities of how goods flow and societies thrive. Today, I see supply chain management as the perfect intersection of my skills and interests, and I'm excited to continue building a purposeful career in this dynamic field.

What is the biggest challenge you face on the job, and how are you managing it?

As an Assistant Professor of Supply Chain Management at the University of South Florida's Muma College of Business and Director of the Supply Chain Innovation Lab, I encounter several significant challenges. One primary challenge is staying up-to-date with the rapidly evolving supply chain landscape, characterized by technological advancements, globalization, and disruptions like the COVID-19 pandemic. To address this, I engage in continuous learning and collaborate with industry partners, such as Jabil, through initiatives like the USF-Jabil Innovation Institute. This partnership has led to the creation of the Supply Chain Innovation Lab, which focuses on tackling industry challenges and advancing digital supply chain transformations.

Another challenge involves balancing academic responsibilities with leading the Supply Chain Innovation Lab. Managing research projects, securing funding, and guiding students requires effective time management and delegation. I prioritize projects that align with both academic goals and industry needs, fostering a collaborative environment where students gain hands-on experience. For instance, the lab's research on enhancing supply chain visibility has provided valuable insights for companies like Jabil, while offering students practical exposure to real-world challenges.

By integrating academic rigor with industry collaboration, I strive to contribute to the advancement of supply chain management education and practice.

What technologies, trends, or disruptive forces do you see having the biggest impact on supply chains?

Supply chains are undergoing transformative changes driven by key technologies and disruptive forces. Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning (ML) are revolutionizing operations through predictive analytics, demand forecasting, and inventory optimization, enabling smarter and more agile systems. At the same time, blockchain technology and supply chain visibility tools are enhancing transparency and trust, while digital twins allow organizations to simulate and optimize operations with minimal risk. The rapid growth of e-commerce has intensified the need for faster, more efficient delivery systems, spurring innovations in warehouse automation, robotics, and last-mile logistics. Additionally, the adoption of sustainability practices and the circular economy is reshaping supply chains to align with environmental and societal goals, with green logistics and waste reduction becoming top priorities.

In response to ongoing global disruptions, companies are focusing on resilience and risk mitigation by diversifying supply chains, investing in nearshoring, and leveraging advanced technologies for scenario planning. Geopolitical tensions, economic volatility, and the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic have underscored the importance of adaptive and resilient strategies. Advanced robotics, autonomous vehicles, and automation are addressing labor shortages and enhancing efficiency, while sustainability and digital transformation continue to drive innovation. Together, these forces are reshaping supply chains, requiring professionals to stay agile, innovative, and future-focused to meet evolving challenges and opportunities.
