

Form Name:	Meet a Member 2025 Application
Submission Time:	January 10, 2025 8:17 am
Browser:	Chrome 131.0.0.0 / Windows
IP Address:	68.230.152.84
Unique ID:	1304001629
Location:	41.9668, -71.4328

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When and why did you join CSCMP?	I joined CSCMP shortly after beginning my PhD program at the University of Rhode Island's College of Business, where I'm concentrating on Operations & Supply Chain Management. On my very first day, one of the most important pieces of advice I received was that applied sciences thrive on strong connections with their intended audience. That idea really resonated with me, and it's what motivated me to become a member of CSCMP. CSCMP offers a unique blend of academic rigor and practitioner insight, which has been invaluable to my research and professional development. The yearly conference, in particular, stands out as an incredible opportunity to engage with industry professionals, exchange ideas, and stay ahead of emerging trends. I've found that the CSCMP community fosters collaboration and innovation in a way that bridges the gap between research and practice, making it an essential part of my academic journey.

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?

For new CSCMP members, my best advice is to dive in and engage actively with the community. Start by exploring the incredible resources available, which provide valuable insights into current supply chain challenges and innovations. But the real magic happens when you connect with other members-join a local roundtable, participate in discussions, and network at events. CSCMP is all about building relationships that inspire collaboration and innovation.

Personally, I find the annual conference to be the most valuable benefit. It's a one-of-a-kind experience that brings together academics and practitioners from around the world. The opportunity to hear diverse perspectives, learn from cutting-edge research, and discuss real-world applications is unparalleled. If you're considering joining CSCMP or attending the conference, I can't recommend it enough. It's a vibrant, welcoming community, and I'd be happy to share more about my experiences if you're interested!

The key is to get involved and stay curious-the more you put into your membership, the more you'll gain in return.

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

The most impactful connection I've made through my CSCMP membership came during my first year, when I had the opportunity to present my research at the annual conference. It was an incredible experience-not only because of the valuable feedback I received from both academics and practitioners, but also because of the connections I formed during the doctoral consortium.

The consortium fostered a strong sense of community with my academic peers, many of whom have become true friends and collaborators. Sharing our journeys, challenges, and successes created a bond that extends beyond the conference, and I've found those relationships to be both professionally and personally enriching.

Presenting my research and engaging with this welcoming and insightful community during that first year solidified my belief in CSCMP's mission to bridge academia and practice. It's a network that supports growth, sparks innovation, and builds friendships-an experience I'll always cherish and continue to build upon.

How did you get into supply chain management/logistics?

Before starting my PhD journey, I spent 18 years at a Fortune 10 healthcare organization, primarily focusing on finance operations. While my role initially centered on managing financial flows, I quickly became captivated by the bigger picture-the realization that these financial processes were just one part of a larger ecosystem of supply chain flows. I was drawn to the intricate interplay of physical products and services working together to help people on their paths to better health.

This realization inspired me to pursue an MBA with a concentration in Global Supply Chain. That experience deepened my understanding of the discipline and sparked a passion for exploring how supply chains can drive value and innovation. Today, as a PhD candidate, I'm excited to contribute to the field through research that addresses some of the most pressing challenges in supply chain management.

It's been an incredible journey from industry practitioner to academic researcher, and I feel privileged to be part of a discipline that combines complexity, impact, and a tangible connection to improving people's lives.

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

During my time in industry, one of the biggest challenges I faced was navigating large, complex bureaucratic organizations with over two hundred thousand employees. Cutting through the noise and staying agile in those environments required a great deal of focus and adaptability. It was often difficult to maintain momentum amidst layers of processes and decision-making structures.

Now that I've transitioned to an academic role, the biggest challenge is ensuring that the research I conduct is not only rigorous but also relevant. It's easy to get lost in theoretical frameworks, but making sure that my work has practical applications is crucial. CSCMP has been invaluable in this regard. The organization helps bring current supply chain issues into stark relief, ensuring that the work we do as academics is aligned with real-world challenges. Additionally, CSCMP fosters connections between supply chain scholars and practitioners, which allows me to stay informed and collaborate with some of the brightest minds in the field.

Balancing academic rigor with relevance to the practitioner space is a continuous challenge, but the support and community I've found through CSCMP help me stay focused on that important goal.

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

For me, the most impactful force on supply chains today is the growing challenge of misinformation, a topic I explore at the intersection of supply chain management and media studies. Misinformation represents a "grand societal challenge" with far-reaching consequences, not only for the sanctity of knowledge flows and the stability of democratic institutions but also for traditional physical supply chains.

Research has made it clear that misinformation can directly trigger real-world disruptions, such as spurring panic buying, causing stock-outs, and exacerbating the bullwhip effect. This was starkly evident during the COVID-19 pandemic, when false information about product availability and safety led to widespread supply chain instability.

As polarization increases and digital platforms lower the barriers for inaccurate information to spread far and wide, the risks to both informational and physical supply chains continue to grow. Addressing these challenges requires cross-disciplinary insights and innovative strategies, which is why I find this space both urgent and fascinating to study.
