



Council of Supply Chain
Management Professionals

Educating and Connecting the World's Supply Chain Professionals.™

MEET A MEMBER



Karen Folino

Education:

Harvard Business School AMP 175; University of Tennessee - MS; University of Dallas -MBA

Company/Title:

Virginia Tech Transportation Institute/
Transformation Leader

When and why did you join CSCMP?

I joined CSCMP to participate to advance professional education in the Supply Chain industry and to insure that I “keep current”. Trends are changing and innovation is happening so fast that just achieving higher education degrees is not enough. CSCMP provides Networking opportunities with the best of the best. The EDGE Conference is always a place to get a lot of education and exposure in a concentrated setting with great value. The CSCMP Roundtables are also extremely helpful in the networking process locally.

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?

Get involved and get excited about what CSCMP can offer to your professional growth. If you are a more senior profession, become a mentor or be mentored by someone who has been in the industry a long time. You can learn from those experiences. As a senior professional, the younger professional exposure keeps me current both technically and with creative approaches to solving future innovation challenges.

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

The opportunity to work with outstanding leadership, particularly with President Rick Blasgen and his operation leader, Chris Adderton. They have been great to work with and very engaging and open to new ideas.

How did you get into supply chain management/logistics?

Initially, I started with advancing with the certification in transportation and logistics. It became evident to me early on in my career that a company can have the best of products but if their strategy does not incorporate an integrated supply chain and logistics strategy, the concept will fail. Supply Chain is about the DNA and integration to excellence in execution.

Describe your job in a tweet (i.e. 140 characters or less)

Driving excellence in the customer experience, both internal and external customer experience. This outcome is advanced through evaluating regulations for advanced vehicles (e.g., driver assistance systems, connected and/or automated vehicles), providing research to ensure state and federal policies are based on relevant data, connecting partnerships to assist in the development of new systems, and enhancing Va. Tech Transportation Institute's research areas and sponsorship diversity.

What are your top three job responsibilities?

- Strategic Leadership
- Research and Innovation
- People and process management

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

It is always about the people - the customers and the employees. Recruiting and developing the human capital asset is the number one priority. When that is right, all other processes and outcomes fall into place.

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

Autonomous vehicles (cars, buses, trucks) and its impact on safety and saving lives. This requires a redefinition of "the driver" and the changes required to regulation, policy and infrastructure to enable success.

If you were to start a company from scratch, what values would you build it on?

Reliability, Clarity, Teamwork, Excellence, Self-initiative.

What are you proudest of?

The retention of great partnerships and professional relationships through the years that continue to hold me accountable and push my growth while keeping everything in the right perspective.

If you could interview anyone, who would it be and why?

Desmond Tutu. I would like to understand how he was so effective at overcoming adversity without become discouraged and maintain such impactful leadership through hard times. I would explore the "DNA" of his consensus-building model of leadership and learn from him to aspire to being a more effective and inspiring leader.

What was your childhood dream job?

I think as a child, I just dreamed of "having" a job. I didn't have a lot of definition around what it looked like.

When you retire, what will be the first adventure you take, or what will be the first thing you will do for which you may not otherwise have had the time?

I want to give more time to my creative side, whatever that may become. Additionally, I want to sew back into my family who did not get to experience all that I did throughout my professional life and assist them with the final stages of life to maximize it to the fullest of joyous experiences.

Write your own question and answer! What have we not asked that would be interesting for other CSCMP members to learn about you?

If I had it all to do over, what would I do differently? I would respond with Nothing-- live life to its fullest each day without regret.