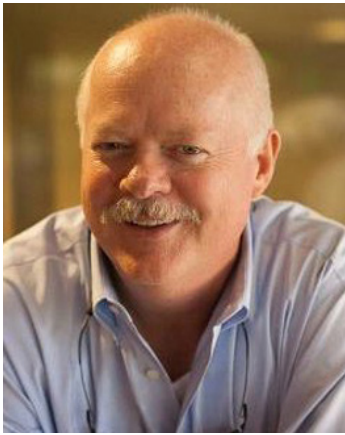




Council of Supply Chain
Management Professionals

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

MEET A MEMBER



Phillip Elliott

Education:

University of Colorado/BSEE, Colorado State
University/MSM, Villanova/SSBB

Company/Title:

Alcohol Monitoring Systems/ Vice President,
Manufacturing Operations

When and why did you join CSCMP?

I joined CSCMP in August of 2018 to help build knowledge around corporate social responsibility and understand what other supply chain professionals consider particularly important.

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?

My advise would be to participate. There are a lot of activities, and a substantial amount of information available on the WEB site and from other members.

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

I participated in the mentorship program in 2020. I picked up three mentees and found out how fantastic the future leaders of supply chains will be.

How did you get into supply chain management/logistics?

I started my career as an electronics technician. I love manufacturing and I earned a BSEE going to school nights. I worked my way through the manufacturing ecosystem and moved into supply chain management. I started managing operations a while ago and have been blessed to work with some of the best and brightest people who have been kind enough to impart their knowledge to me.

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

I am responsible for actualization of the physical products my company sells. This includes forecasting, planning, purchasing, logistics, sustaining engineering, quality management, environmental management, health & safety, inventory, manufacturing, facilities, reverse logistics, product repair and service.

What are your top three job responsibilities?

1. Mentor and grow people into the great leaders.
2. Manage costs and quality to help my company meet objectives.
3. Identify and manage risks.

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

The biggest challenge has to be relentless pace of technological advancements. The very thing that makes electronics and high technology so exciting, is the the same thing that makes it so incredibly challenging. Our cellular enabled products offer incredible challenges. People might remember that it was around 2000 when the Blackberry started to become the ubiquitous work phone. Only 7 years later, smart phones lit the market on fire. In 2019, the entire marketplace was turned on its head, again, as cellular providers began to turn off 3G networks and bring LTE networks online. The pace of change is mind numbing, and it is a never-ending source of challenge to supply chain management.

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

The prevailing disruptive force at the current time must be the pandemic. Just the shipping and logistics challenges are driving costs up and service down. It affects everyone. There are no canned green chilis in the supermarket, and the window repair person can't get parts to fix my sliding door, and I can't get my power supplies out of Shenzhen because there is no transportation space.

As a technology geek, I find the current trends in automation very exciting. I see technologies that will help make work lives simpler, safer and better. I also see trending topics that are being forced because they sound good. As leaders we must be careful of "Shiny Object Syndrome". We must also be open to new concepts and technologies that may not seem to fit on the surface.

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

Honesty, respect, compassion, acceptance and all of those simple values that we were all raised with. I would also attempt to build a stranger sense of work life balance.

It is so incredibly important to maintain balance. People forget that we are making the world that our families will live in. We are creating the value systems that are required to have a world we all want to live in.

What are you proudest of?

Many of the people I have worked with and helped to grow have moved into leadership positions in other companies. I am very proud that I, in some small way, may have had influence on their success in running their own companies, divisions of companies or plants for other companies. Helping young managers become great leaders makes me proud.

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

These are always interesting questions because the lists most of us have are not easily parsed out to one or two. So, then we attempt to come up with a name that is relevant to what we are speaking to. Given the social and political aspects of 2020, the first name that pops into my head is "Sun Yat-sen". However, given the relevance to this topic I would have to go with Gordon Moore.

In 1975 Moore was able to take historical trends in technology, knowledge of physics and electronics, his own insight and bang them together to create the ultimate forecast, Moore's law. That would be an interesting conversation indeed. Especially in the light of the how the physics of electrons is approaching the physical limits of miniaturization and the silicon wafer may be at its zenith.

What was your childhood dream job?

Smoke jumper, I guess I was an adrenaline junkie before I knew what that meant.

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 always wanted to take a nomadic, meaningless and unscheduled sailboat trip to no place with no objective, in some idealistic and utopian place with my best friend, wife and lifelong partner.

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

If you had a chance to go back and do it all over again, what would you do differently?