



# Certification *Profile*

One might describe the career of **Linda Swenson Stoppacher, CPP**, as an amazing journey. The loss prevention expert has instructed students at the Shanghai University of Finance and Economics, enjoyed cocktails in Edinburgh Castle, and dined in London's House of Lords. It's all in a day's work for Stoppacher, who began her career in the insurance industry 20 years ago in the week she graduated from college. Today, she holds the position of loss control consultant for Acadia Insurance in Syracuse, New York.

Early in her career, Stoppacher sparked an interest in cultural property insurance and went on to earn her master's degree in historic preservation and museum management from Boston University. A natural extension of that was to develop security skills. Stoppacher joined ASIS in 2006 and earned her Certified Protection Professional® (CPP) credential in the same year. Certification was an internal requirement for the technical career path she had chosen.

"Certification provides credibility," notes Stoppacher, "There really is no price tag to be placed there."

She believes that her ASIS certification has also helped her to give back to her community. "I have reviewed security and evacuation plans for my children's preschool, aided in the allergen management and response program for our elementary school, and written a disaster and

emergency plan for a national kennel club," she states.

Stoppacher relishes the fact that there is no "typical" day of her work and that she is always learning. "I may be visiting a museum to evaluate the controls in place to transport and protect a collection one day, and the next, I may be working with a trucking company to assess fleet safety and cargo security," she observes.

While there is little categorized as routine in Stoppacher's daily schedule, interacting with customers and underwriters is a common thread. "This is a position for people who enjoy being with people," she states. Standards and report writing are other commonalities. A day rarely passes without Stoppacher accessing various standards, such as those of the U.S. Department of Transportation, the National Fire Protection Association, or the Occupational Safety and Health Administration.

"The security challenges I face can be varied, which is a challenge in and of itself," Stoppacher comments. Customers present challenges ranging from curbing retail shrinkage, stopping metal pilferage, and ending cargo losses to evacuation or emergency planning and personnel security issues. Stoppacher credits her ASIS network with providing additional expertise. "There are so many avenues to be explored in the field of security management," says Stoppacher, who feels fortunate to have the position she holds.

*By Leigh A. McGuire, ASIS public relations manager*