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Dr. Nichols' research has addressed a range of integrated supply chain management (SCM) issues. His current research focuses on the improvement of supply chain processes and supply chain security. He has published articles addressing important logistics and SCM issues which have appeared in the Academy of Management Journal, Cycle Time Research, Decision Sciences, Industrial Marketing Management, International Journal of Physical Distribution and Logistics Management, International Journal of Purchasing and Materials Management, Journal of Business and Industrial Marketing, Journal of Business Research, Journal of International Marketing, and Journal of Operations Management. He is co-author of Introduction to Supply Chain Management (Prentice Hall 1999) and Supply Chain Redesign: Transforming Supply Chains into Integrated Value Systems (Prentice-Hall 2002). He currently serves on the Editorial Review Board of the International Journal of Procurement Management.

Dr. Nichols has conducted SCM research projects and educational programs for a number of businesses and governmental agencies including, AutoZone, Best Buy, Boehringer Mannheim, Buckman, Concours Group, FedEx, Ford, Government of Canada, Hewlett Packard, ILS, Ingram Micro, Johnston & Murphy, Lifeblood, L.L. Bean, THE MED, Medtronic, Memphis Housing Authority, Memphis/Shelby County Government, Methodist Healthcare, Michigan State University, Raytheon, Reliant Energy, Roche Diagnostics, SCI Systems, Shinko Electric, Smith & Nephew, Sun Microsystems, Thomas & Betts, Texas Instruments, University of Memphis, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, U.S. Navy, Vitro, and others. Prior to his doctoral studies, Dr. Nichols was a management consultant with Dialog Systems, Inc.

Dr. Nichols holds a BA in Economics from the University of Maine. He received an MBA with a concentration in Materials and Logistics Management and a Ph.D. in Business Administration from Michigan State University. He has twice received the Palmer Professorships from the Fogelman College of Business and Economics in recognition of his research and service accomplishments. Dr. Nichols' professional affiliations include the Council of Supply Chain Management Professionals and the Institute for Supply Management.

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