Inventory Optimization

Course Dates: March 9th-11th, 2027
Location: Texas A&M University

Executive Summary:

The *Inventory Optimization Course* is part of the CIDL's Distributor Operations Leader pathway, developed in partnership with Texas A&M to equip distribution professionals with the knowledge and capabilities to make strategic contributions across the operational side of their business.

Learning Objectives:

- Inventory Management – Principles & Best Practices
- Inventory Stratification – Segmenting Inventory to Drive Strategy
- Forecasting – Understanding & Improving Demand Forecasts
- Replenishment – Developing Effective Replenishment Strategies
- AI Enablement – Leveraging AI to Accelerate Analysis & Implementation

Participants will work with inventory data as they progress through inventory stratification, forecasting, and replenishment best practices. **New for 2027, the course incorporates AI enablement**, demonstrating how participants can leverage AI to assist with the analysis, development, and implementation of inventory optimization initiatives.

The course is designed to help participants move beyond the tactical execution of inventory processes and develop the capabilities to **work on the business**—identifying opportunities, recommending improvements, and driving meaningful change in how their organization manages inventory. Participants will leave with two levels of opportunity: low-hanging fruit that can be acted on immediately and more advanced best practices that may require project-based work to implement.

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The agenda below provides overview of the course flow. Additional details, such as hotel address and campus training room location, will be provided upon participant registration and acceptance into the program.

Tuesday, March 9th

Start	End	Event
7:30am	8:00am	Breakfast
8:00am	12:00pm	Principles of Inventory Management *(Break at 10:00am)*
12:00pm	1:00pm	Lunch
1:00pm	5:00pm	Inventory Stratification *(Break at 3:00pm)*
5:30pm		Group Dinner

Wednesday, March 10th

Start	End	Event
7:30am	8:00am	Breakfast
8:00am	12:00pm	Forecasting *(Break at 10:00am)*
12:00pm	1:00pm	Lunch
1:00pm	5:00pm	Replenishment Strategies *(Break at 3:00pm)*
5:30pm		Dinner on Your Own

Thursday, March 11th

Start	End	Event
7:30am	8:00am	Breakfast
8:00am	12:00pm	Implementing Inventory Best Practices *(Break at 10:00am)*
12:00pm	1:00pm	Box Lunch & Departures

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