



# STEM SPOTLIGHT

**PROFESSIONAL: RICK DUPONT**

**NAME:** Rick Dupont  
**COMPANY:** AutoZone  
**TITLE:** IT Manager

**DEGREE/CERTIFICATION/SPECIAL TRAINING:**  
 MBA, Information Services, Christian Brothers University  
 BBA, Marketing, University of Memphis  
 ISACA CobiT 4.1 - 2009 | ITIL v3 - 2010

**Q: How did you select your college major, certification program, or career path?**

**A:** I really didn't know where my career was headed in undergraduate school. I chose a major that was interesting to me that I could use to help me decide my long term career goals. I was a working student that had to help fund my own education. It was tough working and going to school at the same time however it was a great experience.

**Q: What was the biggest influence in your selection of career path?**

**A:** My first career opportunity was with Union Planters Bank. I took a position as a Credit Card Customer Service Agent at minimum wage. This gave me the ability to learn about the different areas of the Bank and determine where I wanted to work. Information Technology was not something I had considered prior to working for UPB. I started as a Telecommunications Analyst and worked my way up the ladder to AVP IT Network Services after a 13 year tenure.



**Q: If you could go back to high school and select any elective course to take that would have better prepared you for college/career, what would it be?**

**A:** Without a doubt I would take courses related to software programming. This is a wide field that will continue to grow. There is so much job satisfaction when you write code that enables business value for your company.

**Q: What is your favorite aspect of your job?**

**A:** I enjoy working with people most of all however being able to deliver results is at the core of my own personal job satisfaction.



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**Q: How do you/your company make a positive impact on society/our community?**

**A:** AutoZone has many different programs that help others. I am very proud of our involvement with St. Jude and the Arts. We also have an AutoZone Assistance Fund that helps our associates in disaster situations.

**Q: What's the most interesting thing you have been able to do in your career?**

**A:** When I was at UPB my team initiated a Telecommunications software billing concept that I personally owned through several years of use. We developed the screens and functionality from the ground up. We saved over 3.5MM and eventually sold the software rights to a third party. This is the same software used by AutoZone today.



**Q: What makes you get up each morning excited about your profession?**

**A:** Knowing I have responsibility for 10 associates, their success, and working for one of the absolute best companies in the world.

**Q: What advice would you share with K-12 students who are considering your profession?**

**A:** Who doesn't enjoy video games and engaging with electronics like cell phones and tablets? Imagine if you were the person that helped design the software used and could set the stage for the future. Information Technology is the future and there are many different professions to consider.