Richard (Rich) Chylla was among the first groups of professionals to earn the CLP and, like many other CLPs, he came to the field and certification from an industry background. In 2008, he answered a job posting at the University of Michigan for a tech transfer professional with an engineering background and industry experience. “It was a great fit for me having worked in a business development role in industry,” Chylla, who now serves as Executive Director, Michigan State University (MSU) Technologies, said. “I have worked in university tech transfer for the past 11 years.”

The CLP program focuses on an individual’s understanding of intellectual property licensing issues. Deal makers in high-tech, life sciences and other fields are faced with tackling a variety of IP issues, and by earning the CLP credential, individuals can demonstrate the necessary proficiency to themselves, their employers, and their colleagues. The program provides an inclusive environment for licensing professionals from varied backgrounds, thereby leveraging the multidisciplinary nature of the field.

Chylla has seen the field change and expand quickly in the last decade.

“University tech transfer now takes a much broader and holistic approach with industry than ‘just’ patenting and licensing,” Chylla, who is also the current Chair of AUTM, said. “We are trying to develop partnerships with industry where the licensing component is just one part of the relationship.”

CLP asked Chylla to discuss his professional experience since having earned the CLP certification as well as the importance of the designation to his work as a leader in tech transfer.

- **Do you think certification is important for the field of licensing?**
  Yes, I do. Most professional fields benefit from having earned a certification demonstrating core knowledge and best practices for a field of endeavor. Licensing is no different. I think it’s just a matter of time before it becomes one of the standard certifications in the profession, much like the CPA designation for those who do public accounting.

- **What first prompted you to earn the CLP, and what motivates you to maintain it through recertification?**
  The CLP certification was a relatively new distinction when I moved into university tech transfer. I thought it would be good to earn the designation in order to demonstrate my knowledge and experience in licensing even though I’d only been working in university licensing full-time for a few years. As long as I’m working in this field, I think it’s important to keep up my certification. I’ve recertified once since earning the CLP initially.

- **How does the CLP benefit you personally and professionally?**
  CLP provides recognition of proven expertise in the licensing field. This is important in my current role at MSU and provides a recognition of competency that moves with you in your professional career. Professional fields benefit from having an earned certification demonstrating core knowledge and best practices within the field.

- **Do you look for the CLP when you are hiring?**
  Yes, I currently list “CLP Preferred” in my department's job postings for licensing professionals. At the same time, I encourage our current staff to pursue and earn the designation.

- **What is your advice for others considering earning the CLP certification?**
  Speak with colleagues who have taken the exam and earned the designation. They can help you identify the portions of content where you need to focus your study efforts depending on your individual background and experience.

- **If you were not working in this field, what would you be doing?**
  Working as a professional cook/chef. I love to cook as much as I love to eat!

To find out more about the CLP program and begin your own path toward earning the credential, visit [www.licensingcertification.org](http://www.licensingcertification.org).