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I've been with Novogradac since fall 2003 (first job out of college), when I started as a staff accountant, performing audits and tax returns for affordable housing partnerships. By 2006, my focus shifted to internal training within Novogradac.

In 2008, I started focusing on creating and delivering content for Novogradac's conferences and workshops and clients. I became involved with LIHTC property compliance instruction in 2009 and have been involved since. In June 2011, I was given the opportunity to expand our fledgling online training and webinar effort and have since then hosted more than 150 webinars and online workshops, mostly relating to the low-income housing tax credit.

Michael also hosts Novogradac's YouTube channel, whose videos have been viewed more than 150,000 times by tax credit professionals. Additionally, he is a principal contributor to the Introduction to Low-Income Housing Tax Credits booklet that is published by Novogradac. Michael obtained his degree in accounting from Brigham Young University. He is licensed as a Certified Public Accountant in California.

How has the HCCP designation impacted your career?

The HCCP has been a well-known and respected designation for a long time. When you know someone is an HCCP, you can (correctly) infer they have a certain level of understanding of the tax credit program, which can go a long way establishing credibility in the industry. I'm sure that for some people who hadn't previously attended one of the tax credit webinars I host, seeing HCCP next to my name gave them confidence to register.

How did you get into the LIHTC industry?

I graduated from college with an accounting degree and went to work for an accounting firm that just happens to specialize in LIHTC. Of course, at the time I knew nearly nothing about the LIHTC industry or how complex it was. That all came later.

What are your day-to-day responsibilities?

I'm always working on something to help others in the tax credit world better understand the business in which they operate. Often, that means creating training materials for my co-workers as part of our internal training program or designing and delivering workshops or webinars for external audiences.

What helped with your success in the LIHTC industry?

Since I'm so heavily involved in the education side, two keys have really helped me with my professional development. The first is staying curious. I'm always hearing about situations that are maybe not new, but they're new to me. The more I've learned, the more I'm reminded that there is still so much more to learn. It's a fun process – humbling, but fun. The second key, somewhat related to the first, is to

continually see if there is a way to explain difficult concepts to audiences more clearly. Very few of the presentations I deliver are “one and done,” so after each session, there’s an opportunity to assess feedback and see what went well and what could be taught better the next time. Hopefully this refining process leads to better instruction of concepts over time. I believe it does.

What’s your favorite hobby?

It seems like everyone answers this question with something adventurous. But honestly, I love me a good nap! Unfortunately, napping can really throw off your sleep schedule, so vacation time is when I try to catch up on some afternoon shut-eye.

This past year, I’ve gotten into recreational drone flying—the quadcopter kind. I saw an explosion of amazing footage on social media taken by amateur pilots/videographers and I got really excited. But only recently has the pricing come down to what I would consider reasonable for a novice like me. The technology is so advanced now that there’s not a very steep learning curve to learn how to fly. The coolest footage I’ve captured is probably whales off the coast of California. It’s just a unique perspective compared to what you would see from the shore or a boat. Having a drone is like having a pet flying robot videographer that you can carry in a bag!