31 Days of GPC

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If you are reading this, please understand I’ve already made a few assumptions about you. One, you are a grant professional. Two, you aren’t a GPC...at least not yet. Whether you are on the fence about the credential, have no desire to pursue it, or are in the process of studying for the exam, please hear me out.

I distinctly remember a speech at the 2006 Grant Professionals Association National Conference in Nashville, Tennessee. During lunch, then Grant Professionals Certification Institute (GPCI) President Marcia Ford stood up and announced that the GPC exam would be available for the taking in “one more year”! If she said it once, she said it 10 times. And being the grant nerd I still am, I was giddy at the prospect.

In November 2007, I sat for the GPC with over 100 of my closest peers. To date, that is the largest cohort to earn our distinct credential. Since then I find myself scratching my head, wondering why so many grant professionals do not have their GPC. Yes, I understand the exam is expensive. I appreciate and remember the nerves associated with test taking. And I know it might not result in an immediate raise, new job, or new client.

But my pointed question to you is, “So what?”

I’m a glass full kind of girl, and rather than focus on the negative, join me in thinking about the positive side of the GPC. In no particular order, the GPC:

- **Inducts you into an elite class of grant professionals.** In fact, you could be the only GPC in your state. Check our current list here: [www.grantcredential.org/credentialed-grant-professionals/](http://www.grantcredential.org/credentialed-grant-professionals/).

- **Grants you credibility.** GPCI bestows the GPC as an impartial, third-party organization. The GPC shows that you have the knowledge, skills, and experience to participate in grant activities.

- **Promotes continuing education.** Not only does the initial exam require training and study, but certification holders are required to complete the GPC certification maintenance program every three years. This process ensures you will stay abreast of changes in professional development and work experience.

- **Enriches self-esteem.** The credential moves you beyond tasks and job descriptions. It develops a sense of professional purpose and creates a sense of achievement and success.
You do not have to take my word for it though. Next month, GPCI is launching the first-ever “31 Days of GPC” event. Starting March 1, GPCI will post a new video on its website each day. We hope you will tune in to watch 30-second clips that highlight the benefits of the GPC and how the credential has helped seasoned and new grant professionals. Listen to a sampling of GPCs from across the country who work for local governments, hospitals, nonprofits, educational institutions, and their consulting firms. Each GPC articulates what the credential means to them on a professional and personal level. I trust you will be amazed at the variety of benefits described in these videos.

By design, the 31 Days of GPC overlaps with the first International Grant Professionals Week, which is March 16-20, 2015. What better way to celebrate grant professionals than celebrate this incredible credential that in three little letters says so much about our livelihood!

In addition to working on the 31 Days of GPC project, GPCI Board Members were all asked to come up with their GPC mantra. I am happy to share mine.

I got my GPC because I wanted to shout from the rooftops that I am a rock star in my field. The grant profession does not have a required degree or training program. While my work speaks for itself, those three incredible letters speak volumes! They say Grant Professional Certified, this Girl Puts her Career at the forefront, and Grants Promote Community.

Jealous? Then go get your own. I can help you do it.

So, if you are still on the fence or have no desire to spend the time, energy, and money required to earn your GPC, please take the month of March and reconsider your stance. Participate in the 31 Days of GPC by watching the daily clips of your friends, co-workers, and peers. It might just be worth your future career.

And I mean what I said. I can help you earn your GPC. All you have to do is reach out (info@grantcredential.org) and ask.