

# EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

## LeeAnn Carrell

### 1. What do you find most challenging about your job at API?

In the past, I have always worked on a development team; I have never worked in an IT Department. It is challenging to manage my time so that I am answering any helpdesk tickets related to my duties, as well as keeping up with new development projects. We often times say that we are “changing a tire while we’re driving down the road at 100 mph.” It is definitely a challenge to maintain what our team has developed in the past, assist the pharmacies and the company when things go wrong, and to keep an eye on the future so that any new development is of highest value to our pharmacies. We are doing a lot of interesting things in IT in order to maintain AAP’s highly ranked stance in the world of Pharmaceuticals. Facing these challenges are difficult at times, but I would be lying if I said the challenges are not also some of the most fulfilling and exciting parts about my job.

### 2. What do you like most about your job?

I enjoy the closeness with our customers. I have learned a lot of new skills and have challenged myself a lot in this job, and I enjoy knowing that our hard work is directly affecting local business and other pharmacies across the country. In large corporations, it can be difficult to see your value, but I have always felt my value here. I love being able to use my education and skills to make people’s day easier.

### 3. What drew you to the company originally? And how has the company changed since?

I have always wanted to be able to use my education locally, but it can be difficult to find computer engineering based jobs in this area. While working in Huntsville, I had been keeping my eye out for jobs in Scottsboro for about a year when I saw the IT Data Analyst job opening at AAP. When I first started, AAP was about to start the process of separating from a subsidiary and bringing their IT department in house. Our department consisted of 3 people at the time, and today we have grown to 9. We have successfully migrated the department to Scottsboro and are now working on several interesting, new projects. We are sitting on a treasure trove of data, and our team is working hard to utilize that data to its fullest. Our projects will assist our customers with buying power, bringing more purchases to the API Warehouses, and implementing business intelligence will help the company as a whole make more insightful decisions for the benefit of our customers. As the company has grown, I still feel the closeness of the employees here. The genuine desire from our executives to help our customers and members is inspiring and empowers me to do well in my day-to-day duties.

### 4. What are some of your hobbies and interests?

I love to stay busy, and I think my hobbies and interests reflect that. I enjoy being outside when the weather is nice. My husband and I have recently started traveling more. We

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both love going camping, taking our dogs to the creek to swim, frequenting the gym, spending time with friends and family, and anything adventurous we can get in to. Some of my other interests include going to the movies, relaxing at Pine Brother's coffee shop on the square, photography, and music.

## 5. What is on your bucket list?

In the past year, I have had to trade for a larger bucket due to adding so many things to my bucket list. Since my husband and I have sparked an interest in travel, we have added several small trips and a few major trips to our list of things to do. In the short term, I plan to visit Colorado, see the history that Philadelphia offers, and explore the Grand Canyon. I would love to see Ireland and take a safari trip in Africa, but those are on the long-term list. In categories other than travel, some items on my bucket list are to learn how to play the guitar and to be moderate at yoga.

## 6. Best vacation you've ever been on?

My favorite vacation I have ever been on was to Jamaica. The beaches are beautiful, we went scuba diving, we stayed at an amazing resort with a lot of entertainment, and I was accompanied by 3 other families that I love spending time with. I will be visiting Colorado this spring, though, and I fully expect it to take the place of my favorite vacation.

## 7. Favorite sports teams?

I enjoy the social aspect of sports more than I actually enjoy watching sports, but I have always leaned towards Alabama.

## 8. Do you have a favorite quote or saying?

Live Well, Laugh Often, Love Much

## 9. Anything you'd like to share?

Absolutely! In all aspects of my life, it is my hope that everyone I'm around feels loved, motivated, and encouraged to live a meaningful life. A very close friend of mine advised me to ask myself the following three questions on a regular basis:

Where do I want to be in 5 years and what am I doing to get there?

Who are the 5 most influential people in my life right now?

What am I working on right now that is making me be a better person? (There should always be an answer to this question.)

If you ask yourself those questions, you will strengthen your awareness of where you currently are in life. If you take the next step and are honest with yourself in answering those questions, you will gain a sense of control on the direction in which you are going.

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Looking through a narrow lens allows you to focus on the bad. If we look through a wider lens, we see that our problems are much smaller than they may appear. I hope that concept is as inspiring to others as it has been for me!

***I'm so grateful and honored to be given this spotlight! Thank you, Brandy and Kellie.***