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LaidOffCampNY Offers New Perspectives, Networking Opportunities and Inspiration to Those in Transition

User-Generated Conference to be held on May 1st & 2nd in NYC

NEW YORK, NY -- April 20, 2009 -- Enterprising individuals in professional transition will have the unique opportunity to gain perspective, discover new passions, and reinvent their careers at LaidOffCampNY. The free two-day event will offer this and more to job seekers and the self-employed in New York City on Friday, May 1st at New World Stages 340 W 50th St. and Saturday, May 2nd, 2009 at Pace University's downtown Manhattan campus. The event is directed toward entry- to mid-level digital media, advertising, publishing, technology and financial service professionals.

Modeled after user-generated conferences like BarCamp, LaidOffCampNY features an open, participatory discussion forum designed to educate, empower, and connect community members who are experiencing challenges in the current economic climate. LaidOffCampNY will include panels, workshops, and discussions focused on topics including building your personal brand, transitioning to a new industry, legal & accounting demands of launching a new business, finding affordable health insurance, alternative working spaces, alternative income sources, and how to become a freelancer.

"During this long and protracted economic downturn ... it's important to come together and find creative solutions ... [to] help those who are in transition and to keep the creative and intellectual capital right here in New York. [And] LaidOffCampNY offers a creative and refreshing response..." - New York City Councilman Thomas White Jr. upon hearing about LaidOffCampNY.

The first national LaidOffCamp was on March 3, 2009 in San Francisco attracting more than 400 attendees. The success of LaidOffCamp: San Francisco sparked LaidOffCamp organizations and events in over 25 cities worldwide. Proactive individuals now taking the initiative to make the most of their situations in the current economic downturn. LaidOffCampNY is being produced by a diverse group of volunteers, many of whom are also currently seeking new professional opportunities or are self-employed entrepreneurs.

<u>Pace University's</u> Seidenberg School of Computer Science and Information Systems is generously hosting LaidOffCampNY at it's NYC Campus. Sponsors include: <u>2tor, Inc.</u> (<u>MAT@USC</u>), <u>Meetup, Inc.</u> and <u>Bond Media Tech</u>. Non-profit Partner: <u>Gassroots.org</u>. Media partners include: The Business Insider (Silicon Alley Insider), CenterNetworks and GarysGuide. Community partners include: The Hatchery, Mashable, nextNY, NextWeb, and The Runway Project.

Visit <u>ny-register.laidoffcamp.org</u> to register, learn more about the event at <u>ny.laidoffcamp.org</u>, look for updates on Twitter at <u>twitter.com/laidoffcampny</u>, or contact <u>ny-info@laidoffcamp.org</u>.

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