



*Preparing people to lead extraordinary lives*

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Loyola University Chicago Hosts LaidOffCamp Chicago**

*Community Event Will Lift Spirits, Bring Job Seekers and New Opportunities Together*

**CHICAGO, May 11, 2009** – Three recent victims of the economic downturn and poor employment market, Jane Ackerson, Vijay Krishna, and Lance Macon, have joined forces to bring LaidOffCamp to downtown Chicago on Wednesday, June 10, 2009, at Loyola University Chicago's Water Tower Campus. This event follows the successful March 3<sup>rd</sup> launch of LaidOffCamp by recently laid-off consultant, Chris Hutchins of San Francisco, California. The first-ever LaidOffCamp gathered more than 400 professionals to network, promote their skills, and most importantly, learn what to do next in this tough economy. Since the initial launch, LaidOffCamp has been held in New York City, Los Angeles, and Dallas.

Lead organizers of LaidOffCamp Chicago have structured the event so that unemployed and non-traditionally employed (including freelancers and entrepreneurs) individuals can come together to network, promote their skills, and exchange resources and expertise with others. Unlike other programs targeted to the unemployed, LaidOffCamp Chicago is an open forum that covers topics of group interest in a less-structured environment that is designed to allow community members to empower, educate, and assist their peers. Leaders of industry will help facilitate discussions rather than lecture, and encourage open dialogue on broad topics such as building a personal brand, transitioning to a new industry, demands of launching a new business, freelancing, winning interview techniques, and finding affordable health insurance.

"This is an opportunity for bright people who find themselves in a very unusual place – great skills, great education, and great experience, but out of work," said Krishna, a former technology consultant. "We are here to help each other navigate through what can be a financially and emotionally trying experience, and get back on the path toward continuing our careers."

Loyola University Chicago's School of Continuing and Professional Studies (SCPS) was approached by Ackerson to host the LaidOffCamp Chicago, and SCPS dean Jeff Rosen jumped at the opportunity to contribute to an event that would enable Loyola and the Chicago community to come together in this time of need.

"We are proud to be involved in an event that allows us to live out our University mission of educational outreach, and to be in touch with the needs of the community during this tough economic time," said Dean Rosen. "We hope that people continue to look to Loyola's School of Continuing and Professional Studies as a school in touch with the surrounding community, and one that has the ability to meet the demand for higher education and leadership."

LaidOffCamp Chicago is free, but does require registration to attend. Space is limited, so interested parties are encouraged to respond quickly. For more information, or to register, visit <http://laidoffcamp.eventbrite.com/>. The event will be held at 25 E. Pearson, Kasbeer Hall, 15th Floor, on Loyola's Water Tower Campus.

### **About LaidOffCamp**

LaidOffCamp was founded in January 2009 and is an ad-hoc gathering of unemployed and non-traditionally employed people (including freelancers, entrepreneurs, and startups) who want to share ideas and learn from each other. LaidOffCamp features an open, participatory discussion forum designed to educate, empower, and connect community members.

### **About Loyola University Chicago**

Committed to preparing people to lead extraordinary lives, Loyola University Chicago, founded in 1870, is the nation's largest Jesuit, Catholic university. Enrollment is more than 15,600 students, which includes more than 10,000 undergraduates hailing from all 50 states and 82 countries. The University has four campuses: three in the greater Chicago area and one in Rome, Italy. Loyola also serves as the U.S. host university to the Beijing Center for Chinese Studies in Beijing, China. Loyola's ten schools and colleges include arts and sciences, business administration, communication, education, graduate studies, law, medicine, nursing, continuing and professional studies, and social work. Loyola offers 71 undergraduate majors, 71 undergraduate minors, 85 master's degrees, and 31 doctoral degrees. Loyola is consistently ranked among the "top national universities" by *U.S. News & World Report*, and the University was named a "best value" in their 2009 rankings. In addition, Loyola is among a select group of universities recognized for community service and engagement by prestigious national organizations like the Carnegie Foundation and the Corporation for National and Community Service. For more information about Loyola, please visit [LUC.edu](http://LUC.edu).

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