

freelance or volunteer. And the camps themselves are run by, and presented by, volunteers.

"A lot of folks are passionate about wanting to help job seekers or those who where laid off," Curless said.

"I like the concept and I like helping people and I feel I have something of value I can contribute," said Whalen, who has spent 25 years as a presentation coach as well as penning the book *Rock Solid Confidence*.

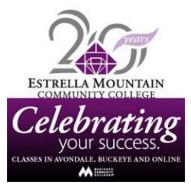
"I'm more than willing to give up a Saturday to be a part of it," Swenson said.

All participants will first meet for breakfast and introductions in the **Community** Room at **Estrella** Hall, which is near the southeast end of the campus, and then everyone will walk over to five classrooms in Mariposa Hall, which is on the west end of the campus. All 20 presentations will take place in Mariposa Hall, with five running simultaneously, so participants can pick and choose which presentations best fit their needs.

"We have presentations on everything from how to use your network effectively to how to start your own business," Curless said. "How to work with a recruiter, how to handle stress, how to use technology and how it plays a part in job searches, how to handle financial stress, interview skills."

There are a few new presentations for the second LaidOffCamp SW Valley and they focus on helping veterans, Curless said.

LaidOffCamp SW Valley will also feature a resource center where attendees can have their resume reviewed, get information on benefits for veterans and find out about the Maricopa Skill Center and its career programs. EMCC's career exploration program, KUDER, will also be available to utilize.



Presentations for all

However, the gist of the day will be the 20 presentations. One of the sessions for veterans, dubbed "Rock Solid Confidence for Veterans," is being presented by Whalen.

"Fifty percent of the confidence we have comes from preparation and knowing who you are and what you'll give," Whalen said.

She will focus on helping the LaidOffCamp participants answer this question: What makes you unique?

"That is what I'm presenting in both of my presentations," she said. "We're focused on 'What do you bring to the table?"

Swenson will give "a repeat performance on how to start a business," he said.

During the first LaidOffCamp SW Valley, he was told not to expect a big turnout for his presentation, and then, "the room was packed," Swenson recalled.

So his presentation returns for those who were unable to get in the first time and those new to the event, he said.

The business expert believes the success of small businesses is what will eventually turn the economy in the right direction, he said.

The biggest issue facing entrepreneurs is finding the capital needed to be successful, Swenson said. If you're not in a financially secure position, opening your own business is not the right option, he said.

Every presentation will help the attendees in some way, which makes Swenson just happy to be a part of it.

"A lot of people don't really know how to go out and find a job," he said. "[LaidOffCamp] is a great environment, very low key with casual attire. It is all about what we can do to help the attendees."

To reserve a spot, visit laidoffcampswvalleyjan2012.eventbrite.com.

For information, call Curless at 623-333-1412.

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