Association of Information Technology Professionals

Los Angeles Chapter (AITP-LA) presents:

Critical skills for Moving Up in your IT Career

What's going to matter most next year? The IT world is evolving! Knowing which skills add greatest value – and have management see you as a "keeper" – is vital in today's IT landscape.

Mark your calendar for AITP-LA's first event of 2013. Hear what hiring Managers from **Mattel, Sony,** professional staffing firms, and recruiters say about what sets preferred candidates apart.

Thursday, Jan. 24, 2013 - Courtyard Marriott in Culver City
Networking @ 6:00 pm ● Dinner & Program @ 7:00 to 9:00pm

PANEL DISCUSSION

- **Eric Perry,** Senior Manager, Human Resources at Mattel
- **Damon Nicholls**, IT Recruitment Manager for Sony
- **Donna Preston,** VP of CPS, an IT staffing firm
- **Carole Schlocker,** Queen of iSpace, an IT staffing firm

We've brought together a panel of hiring Managers from some of Southern California's leading companies to share which technical skills and soft skills they look for when interviewing and hiring (and planning for organizational change). Do they only look for tech skills and certifications? How important is development of soft skills? The world has changed! Knowing what skills are needed to add value to projects and have management see you as a "keeper" is vital in today's IT landscape. What's going to make you invaluable to your team (or, conversely, the most attractive employer to a prospective new hire)?

Our panel is hosted by experts from multiple industries, addressing questions such as:
1. What skills will be most critical in 2013?
2. Which skills/knowledge/experience are in demand? Which are scarce?
3. What knowledge/experience is obsolete/in low demand?
4. IT Outsourcing trends
5. What innovations in technology will drive employment trends?
6. What soft skills are employers looking for in their employees?

Join AITP-LA for this timely IT Employment Outlook event, including dinner and no-host bar, with ample opportunities to network with like-minded professionals.

This is **the** place to be to share ideas and develop new business opportunities. AITP events give you an opportunity to learn about state of the industry news, policy and events. Come meet our members, connect with local resources, and enjoy a fun and informative evening of conversation!

Bring your business cards, network with your peers at Courtyard by Marriott in Culver City

RESERVATIONS: use the link to preregister: https://www.acteva.com/go/aitpla Reservations are required!

PRICE: Dinner & Program: Members $20 in Advance, Non-members $30 in Advance, $40 at the Door. For more information, call the chapter telephone at 562-928-5353 or contact Roger Lux at 562-964-1888.

LOCATION: Courtyard by Marriott – LA Westside, 6333 Bristol Parkway, Culver City 90230 310-484-7000.   Self Parking at hotel ($8)

DIRECTIONS:
Going South on 405
Take 90 fwy East
Slight right at West Slauson Ave
First right onto Bristol Parkway

Going North on 405
Take exit 49B to merge onto Sepulveda toward Slauson Ave
Right at Green Valley Circle
First right onto Bristol Parkway

MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR OUR UPCOMING MEETINGS:

February 28, March 21, and April 25

Join our Linked-in group -- Keep informed:

Go to **http://www.linkedin.com/groupsDirectory** and enter "**aitp-la**".

ABOUT OUR SPONSORS

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Robert Half is a major player in sourcing and placement. Their Annual IT Salary Survey will be available at the meeting. Find more information at www.roberthalf.com

ABOUT OUR PANELISTS

Eric Perry - Senior Manager, Human Resources, Mattel, Inc.
Eric Perry has served as the global HR contact for Mattel's Information Technology division since arriving in 2011. Working for the world's largest toy maker, he has oversight of Global IT for Mattel, American Girl, and Fisher-Price. He is responsible for executing the Human Resources strategy and aligning resources to ensure the overall IT strategy supports the company's growth objectives. Prior to coming to Mattel, he served in a similar capacity for the Walt Disney Company where he supported the consumer products division. Eric holds degrees from Lafayette College and the University of Pennsylvania as well as an MBA from USC's Marshall School of Business.

Damon Nicholls - IT Staffing Manager – Sony Pictures Entertainment
Damon Nicholls has worked in the IT staffing industry in Los Angeles for the last 13 years in both agency recruiting and on-site vendor management services roles. For 6 years, he worked as a Senior Technical Recruiter in a national staffing organization supporting a broad range of clients in Los Angeles. He has staffed all levels of IT positions, from Helpdesk Support, Software Engineers to Project Manager and IT Directors, staffing IT professionals in automotive, entertainment and financial industries.

For the last 7 years, Damon has been working for Sony Pictures Entertainment as the IT Staffing Manager, supporting all lines of business, staffing full-time, contract, and contract to hire positions for their Technology departments.

Donna Preston - Vice President, Commercial Programming Systems
After graduating from UCSB with a degree in Math, I chose to pursue a position in Information Technology as a developer. On the West Coast, I was first employed by Jet Propulsion Laboratory as a Member of Technical Staff. After relocating to the East Coast I joined Lambda Technologies as a Consultant / Developer, which was later bought by General Electric Information Services where I was promoted to Technical Director. After some time on the technical side, along with 2 other partners we decided to start our own company, where I transitioned to staff augmentation initially as Vice President / Part Owner of 3D Information Services, an I.T. Consulting Company. After relocating back to the Los Angeles area I joined my current company and function as Vice President of Commercial Programming Systems.

I find that starting out technical gave me an appreciation for what my clients (both hiring managers and candidates) expected. My involvement had been both account management as well as recruiting. My prior technical background enabled me to interact effectively with the candidates I represent. My career has taken me to both coasts (and areas in between), servicing both the New Jersey / New York areas as well as California / Arizona / Texas. My constant goal is to maintain collaborative relationships with my clients, and to assist the most talented candidates in identifying their desired position.

Carole Schlocker – President, iSpace
Carole currently reigns as the Queen of iSpace. Her previous positions include Princess of Metro Information Services and Senior Peddler at D.P Specialists. Prior, she was actually somewhat technical --as Manager of West Coast Technical Support for Candle Corporation. Realizing that she could only bluff her way so far technically, she moved into sales. She has been in the IT staffing and solutions business for over 20 years. Never seen dressed uncoordinated, she believes in building solid clients based on their proximity to Loehmann's. Carole firmly believes in building strong client relationships and selling on value, humor, trust and ethics, and NOT price.

Carole is currently on the Board of the Westside Center of Independent Living, The National Association of Computer Consultant Business', The Association of IT Professionals (Los Angeles Chapter) and is Chair of the Speakers Committee for the annual Southland Technology Conference (SoTec).   She is also a long time member of UCLA IS Associates and has served on their board. She was the Co-Director of the Los Angeles Chapter of Women in Technology and helped to build the chapter from the ground up. Carole holds a Bachelors Degree in Social Work from Temple University. She strongly believes that she is practicing social work every day in the IT staffing business.