

Have You Landed?

Our shared Success Stories always generate member comments stating that reading the accounts of other members' lengthy searches rewarded by their landing is a source of hope and inspiration. Running an extended and frustrating job search campaign while isolated in your own home can be somewhat depressing. Many members have reported that our Success Stories provide them renewed hope and oftentimes convert an otherwise bad day into a good one. When you fail to share your landing with us, you are denying your fellow members critical mental support and encouragement. Each Success Story has its own uniqueness causing it to resonate with someone, making it a potential life saver to a member unknown to the sender and fulfilling the nobleness of anonymous giving.

Yet, the silence of a significant number of our newly landed members is deafening. Some recent events come to mind:

- During random phone conversations with members, I will be surprised with this news, "Oh, by the way, I landed six months ago". In rare cases, some members have landed and then switched positions without having shared the news of either occurrence. I realize Alumni Members are very busy with new responsibilities, but they can't be too busy to spend a few minutes composing and sending an Email that chronicles their success.
- There exist a small but steadily growing number of Alumni that previously landed, disconnected from TENG, returned to transition and are requesting membership reinstatement. This fact alone indicates that while some are paying lip service to the value of networking they are not "walking the walk" unless forced by circumstances to do so.
- A few members land each month and simply request that we disconnect them from TENG, offering no explanation or insight into career plans. Others terminate Email accounts and disappear altogether. I suspect some of these are people leaving the IT industry; others may wish to avoid having to spend time networking with jobseekers, now that they have landed. Yet others may have taken a lesser position than they previously held and don't wish to have any publicity.
- Some members submit landing announcements without divulging the name of their new employer or their title. When asked to do so, they fail to reply. I can only assume that they don't wish to share with the rest of our members or assist them in kind.
- One recently landed member reported that he received numerous congratulatory messages from other members almost immediately after we shared his Success Story. Each one of the senders may become a future friend, employee, consultant, employer or valuable networking contact. Why miss out on such opportunity?

Given the turnover of our landed members, your next position promises to be little more than an extended consulting engagement. To paraphrase Matt Bud, Chairman of the FENG, no one is

permanently employed, we are all between searches. Considering the transitory, cyclical and ambiguous nature of our present employment market, common sense would indicate that you make every effort to announce your landing; remain connected to TENG and participate at some level. Members have reported forging many new friendships both at the local chapter level and nationally through contacts with others in our Discussion Group. We are capable of broadening and deepening these bonds only if we stay connected and communicate with each other. It's understandable that Alumni members work long hours allowing scant time for networking activity. While attending TENG chapter meetings may not fit their schedules, exchanging a few weekly Emails to network with Active members will go a long way in helping them and potentially generate future reciprocal dividends.

If you have landed, please keep the following thoughts in mind:

- TENG membership is for senior IT executives, whether employed or not. You may be in denial but you are not working your last career position unless you are in your mid-sixties and rapidly approaching retirement.
- Success Stories are free advertising and allow for some bragging rights. You have an opportunity to announce to 2,800 peers that you have been selected to fill a strategically important senior executive position in a major company. This makes you part of an elite. You should be excited about sharing this news. Emails have a way of traveling to previously unimagined places. You never know who will read your story, save it and call you in two years for a more attractive opportunity.
- Announcing your new position and sharing your contact information will not only help to maintain your visibility as a potential candidate for future opportunities but will also open you to new networking contacts. Perhaps you will be contacted non-qualified jobseekers, but this is a small price to pay in return for the value you may receive. Answering such inquiries and assisting other members with networking contacts and career advice will elevate your stature by giving back to a system that has assisted you.
- You can remain connected yet receive minimal Email traffic. Our Discussion and LeadShare Groups offer multiple options for participation. You may elect Individual Emails, which gives you almost immediate notice of each posting. You may choose to receive a Daily Digest, which will give you one daily Email containing all postings to the group for that day. You can also select to receive No Email, which gives no traffic, but if you remain a group member, you may logon at any time to follow the message thread of our groups.
- While you may be enjoying a seemingly rewarding and stable career today, tomorrow a top management change or a pending merger may be announced, which could place your future in jeopardy. Within minutes, you can reset your Yahoo Group preferences to begin receiving a steady stream of job leads, giving you a rapid and representative picture of the national marketplace before you update your resume, surf the Web or call recruiters. This is a free service; why ignore it?
- Whenever possible, contribute to the Discussion Group, nominate new members and share leads. You will continue to build professional relationships nationally that will be there to help you when your next period in transition comes along.

Share your landing news and business card information with us. You may unknowingly become the voice of an angel that inspires and encourages some unknown colleague in transition who is now in the doldrums, yet who in turn may toss you a lifeline in the future.

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Ed Pospesil
Chairman
Technology Executives Network GroupSM

Vice President
Bruner Consulting Associates, Inc.
33 Elizabeth Street, 3rd Floor
Derby, CT 06418
epospesil@brunerconsulting.com
www.brunerconsulting.com
www.theteng.org
Phone: 203-732-7084 / 866-566-2224 Mon – Thu
Phone: 888-458-6566 Fri and 24/7 Voice Mail
Fax: 203-732-9033

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