

## Bruce Yamada

### SBPA

The SBPA in Torrance was very helpful in my recent job search efforts. I was an IT Professional of 26 years who had made a career change the prior year into the Financial Services Industry at probably the worst possible time. As the economy worsened I made a decision to return to IT but by then I had been out of IT for a year and a half and had had limited success obtaining interviews and employment. I joined the Torrance SBPA in November 2008 and the all-volunteer organization provided me the structure and framework to conduct a more focused job search in a more professional and disciplined manner.

The SBPA had seminars for resume writing, conducting a job search and giving a good interview in front of a hiring manager through mock interview sessions. The resume workshops were very helpful to me because it forced me to rethink the message that I was trying to convey about what I could offer an organization. I feel that these workshops led to my success in obtaining interviews and doing well on those interviews.

The SBPA is an all-volunteer organization where I found everyone to be positive and supportive in helping others obtain employment. Meetings to see how everyone was doing on their job search and to disseminate job lead information to the members were held on a regular basis. Members were expected to volunteer a certain amount of time to help the organization and others. All of these elements provided me an environment that kept my spirits high during a very tough process in a difficult economy. However, these elements provided by SBPA and persistence on my part led to my success in obtaining interviews and the eventual job as a Project Manager in Information Technology. Therefore, I would strongly encourage anyone to join the Torrance SBPA.

Bruce Yamada, PMP