



Welcome to **Leaper**, the official newsletter of LEAP Career Development Forum

Content: * Success Story Series - From Startup Failure to A \$100K Salary

* Leap is Recruiting

LEAP Success Story Series -

FROM STARTUP FAILURE TO A \$100K SALARY

Maybe you've heard of or had friends putting blood, sweat and tear into building their startup companies. But have you ever thought of being one of them? Or is that too risky and challenging?

No fancy internship experiences, no full-time job offers, no concrete plans for the future. Like many of you perhaps, I was nervous and scared of peer pressure after I graduated from USC Marshall School of Business. All I wanted was a Master's degree to buy more time, calm down and get myself polished and prepared for the grownup world.

As the MBA course started, I got my first internship at a SaaS BI (Software-as-a-Service Business Intelligence) company. But soon, I quit and then kick-started my first



About the Author:

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Pepperdine graduate with an MBA degree. She is a spice foodie, tattoo enthusiast and couch potato.

company, Fashion E-Commerce Marketplace. As a business student with almost zero knowledge of handling a tech start-up, I attended Google and tech meetups in Santa Monica, weekend training classes – such as Programming 101 and Agile product management methodology – and taught myself everything else by googling and watching YouTube videos.



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As we are seeing Snapchat and many other tech firms blasting off in these days raising millions of dollars, many young entrepreneurs have let their dreams set sail. However, we are seeing success just as much as failure. Approximately 21% of startups that opened in 2000 failed the same year and 70% might not even make it to 10 years.

My startup failed in its 2nd year. It's never only a failure. All those training classes and resource have made me more than just a bold, inexperienced student; instead, they've made me more prepared than I could ever be. Two months after graduation, a cloud-based SaaS company offered me a full-time job as its Technical Product Manager with an annual salary of 6 digits. During my interview, the employers were impressed by my confidence and fearlessness. They were impressed to see a business school graduate talking about DevOps Team and geek language.

Failure is not the opposite of success; it's a stepping stone. One of the most important things I've learned from my entrepreneurial experience is “ **Say yes! Say yes to challenges and bring them to yourselves, and then you will grow and**



*Holaboo. Logo of Candy's
1st company in 2014*



Candy has a passion and

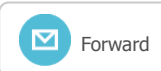
glow". Also, believe you can learn anything on your own and it is never a waste of time taking a longer route on your career path.

interest in fashion. Photo above is her attendance in FIDM fashion show in 2015

Tips of the Day

- Be Likable
- Be Different
- Change faster than changes
- Recommended self-taught websites: General Assembly, CourseHorse.com, Lynda.com, Udemy.com

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If you have any questions or feedback, please email to ask.leap@leapcareer.org. We will publish the answers in the next issue.

We are Recruiting!

As one of the most dependable and promising career development organizations in SoCal for young students and professionals of Asian descent, LEAP is expanding its volunteer teams of Marketing, Business Development, Event Management, and IT for the upcoming LEAP 4.0 Annual Conference.

If you are a dynamic, creative, self-driven hard worker in SoCal who strives to make lasting impacts and trailblaze a path of opportunity as you hone your leadership skills and build your professional experience, please send your latest resume to careers@leapcareer.org. We look forward to working together with you to leap forward on a fun journey!

About LEAP Career Development Forum

LEAP (Leadership, Excellence, Aspiration, Platform) Career Development Forum is a Los Angeles-based 501 (c)(3) nonprofit organization committed to building a trustworthy and sustained platform for professional growth and career advancement of young Asian Americans and those from Asian countries currently studying or working in America in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) and related fields. Launched in February 2013 as an educational program under CESASC (Chinese-American Engineers and Scientists Association of Southern California), LEAP was incorporated in June 2015 to become an independent organization with exclusive focus on establishing a resourceful and open platform to advocate outstanding leadership, encourage professional excellence, cultivate great aspiration, and provide job opportunities.

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