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**Academy's Community Initiative Offers Qualifying Former Addicts Free Vocational Training**  
Addicts May Qualify to Receive Major Addiction Certifications at No or Low Cost

(FT. LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA, February 16, 2010) During economic times like these many students are postponing or quitting their educational pursuits for financial reasons and valuable human talent is left by the wayside as a result. For an addict these challenges are not only real but exacerbated due to their personal fight. Today, more than ever, affordable education, especially for those with a disease such as addiction, is in dire need. The Academy for Addiction Professionals has answered that call by arranging for qualifying individuals to receive free, low cost or reasonably financed classes towards educational certification in the addiction industry.

When you ask a former addict why they now work in the addictions field, the most common answer is that they want to give back. Indeed, most former addicts want to help others struggling with their same demons. However, getting a great job in the addictions field, like most other industries, requires some basic training and certification. Unfortunately for many former addicts, their money will have been spent on the drugs and alcohol itself and then on the treatment to then get clean. Oftentimes, in the process they have lost their family, their jobs and their homes, leaving them with no hope for the future.

This despair often leads to depression, stress and eventually relapse, creating a vicious cycle.

This downward spiral can be stopped however, and the Academy for Addiction Professionals may just be the solution. "Having something to look forward to, having hope for the future, can be the recipe for staying clean." says Ben Brafman, CAP, LHMC, Director of the Academy and founder of Florida based Destination Hope drug rehab center. As a licensed mental health counselor and board certified supervisor for other mental health and substance abuse professionals, Brafman has seen it all, "At Destination Hope we offer goal oriented treatment which keeps our clients focused on the good. With our new low or no cost vocational training program at The Academy, former addicts that want to be a part of the addiction industry will get that same positive focus post rehab."

Addiction is a life-long battle...for most it never ends. With initiatives such as the no cost vocational training program at the Academy for Addiction Professionals, that journey can be that much easier.

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