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Hello from Karen West in North Easton,MA, USA (south of Boston)

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Hi, My name is Karen (Shay) West, and I live in North Easton,MA. Last week I started this class, and I watched the videos and did the weekly writing assignment, but somehow I did not see the quizzes, so either I was blind, or they were added after I watched the videos (unlikely-think I missed those!) So I plan to take Week 1's quiz late, and do week 2's on time. ;-) I did do the writing assignment in depth last week, and will continue to do those this week too.

In Boston, the economy for start-up's is different than Cleveland (I've heard, but I do not know for sure) and some other parts of the world that this course covers, but I am finding it very instructional and interesting. When I did last week's writing assignment, I found that there is quite a bit of support for start ups in this area where I live (Boston). I'm not sure if I will ever be involved in a start up, although I have worked for them before (was once the 25th employee at one company at which I worked), but so far, I have not convinced my British husband to either do a start up on the side, or leave being a professor to do a start up instead! We are not a family in a position to form a start up unless we both had other jobs anyway to provide financial stability for our young family, but it is interesting to learn how others have done it in all sorts of transitioning economies, whether they are similar to where we live south of Boston, or elsewhere in the world, and my husband is from England actually, where although similar, some things in their economy work differently than ours, but I'm sure about their start up economy.

I know people who have done high tech start ups outside their day job, and I know others who have done things completely different for a start up outside their day job, and I know others that have just taken the risk and started their own start up that made it, and I know others whose start up failed, and they made a move somewhere else when that happened. Me? I'm just here to be inquisitive and learn about how people have done it in what ever economy they may be in. I cannot predict at this time if it will ever be the path my husband and I take. Thank you for offering this class, and for giving it a perspective that might be different in some ways from where we live too, so you learn a bit more about how other people in more challenging economies in the world find ways to reach their entrepreneurial goals in life, but you also learn more about how people become entrepreneurs in their own local

ecosystem.

Currently I'm home unemployed, so I welcome the free online courses to learn things while I'm job searching, and who knows, perhaps someday when our lives are more financially stable again, we could consider this path too. But in any case, I'm here to learn, so thanks for offering it. I've taken mostly technical skill courses in the free online community since that is the background I came from, to either expand those or review from them. However, I've taken 6 "humanity" type courses too, and I've really enjoyed those too, from micro and macro economics, to Justice (Ethical Reasoning), US Constitution, International Human Rights, and International Criminal Law (that was the one from Case Western actually, about a year ago). My goal is to work though, but these free online courses and my own projects have kept me company in between submitting resumes and interviewing on occasion.

I usually take a few technical courses, with what I call a "humanity" mixed in with them while I've been home job searching, and I find them all very interesting, and I never took many of these types of things when I did my BS or MS in EE/CS. When I worked, I was a software engineer for 18 years, so taking time out to dig into the humanities widens your perspective on world issues, in this case entrepreneurship in transitioning economies, so thank you for offering this course! And I did not realize about your quizzes actually until just a few minutes ago, so I'll do last week's and this week's this week. ;-)

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