



Stanford eCorner

A Good Leader Must be Flexible

Judy Estrin, *JLABS, LLC*

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Video URL: <http://ecorner.stanford.edu/videos/433/A-Good-Leader-Must-be-Flexible>

Estrin emphasizes that a good leader and entrepreneur should have flexibility--flexibility in dealing with people and navigating through changes in plans. Estrin thinks that this is a hard time and environment for startups, but that should not prevent people from being entrepreneurs. Big companies must embrace entrepreneurial thinking.



Transcript

And I think probably, if you ask me what it takes to be a good entrepreneur or a good leader? It's flexibility. It's flexibility in navigating through changes. It's flexibility in dealing with all different sorts of people. It is flexibility in terms of changing your plan. You always need to have a plan but you always need to be willing to change it if the market changes around you. So, so flexibility is probably in my view one of the key things I look for when I'm looking at leaders. And then finally I wanted to say that, you know, I think this is a hard time for startups over the next three, four, or five years. That doesn't mean you can't be entrepreneurial. And it doesn't mean there'll be no startups. I think there are going to be fewer startups and so then it says, "Well what happens to all of the entrepreneurs in us? If we can't have hundreds of startups cause this valley has a lot of entrepreneurs." Well we have to figure out and big companies have to figure out how to embrace entrepreneurial thinking within a large corporate structure because if you can't couple entrepreneurial thinking with the clout and momentum and resources that a large company has, then you really have what it takes to move the technology forward over the next couple of years.

And so, I think we're in the time now, you know 10 years ago, anybody who graduated from Stanford automatically was going to become an entrepreneur. Of course, what else would you do in the valley? I think we should now be thinking a little bit more balance for some people it's the right thing to do. For some people it will be the right thing to take that entrepreneurial thinking and go drive, you know help influence a large company with it.