



Stanford eCorner

The Value of Business School

Fern Mandelbaum, *Monitor Venture Partners*

May 19, 2004

Video URL: <http://ecorner.stanford.edu/videos/847/The-Value-of-Business-School>

Mandelbaum believes that the best, and arguably most valuable, part of business school is the people you meet. She recommends working before going into business school to provide some experience that can be shared among classmates. Though the business school material can be learned just about anywhere, the experience, because of the networking possibilities, is invaluable, she adds.



Transcript

Most of the students who are in this room are engineers and you went to the business school. Do you think it's necessary to go to business school to do be able to do the things that you're doing? What's the value there? Is it something that an engineer or someone with a technical background could develop the skills needed to be involved with a new venture? The best part about business school, certainly at Stanford are the people. One could argue that it's the most valuable part of business school. Without a doubt, I learned so much from the people I went to school with. The lectures were incredible. It would be hard to recreate that in a two-year period. You can learn how to grow companies. You don't have to go to business school to do that. You can go to school, you can go and work for a big company and learn good processes or the right way to do things or just jump in. Go to a startup.

If what you want to do is start a company, go to a startup. Without a doubt if I were going to business school, I would work before I went to business school. So get your engineering degree, go and work somewhere. Try starting a company. Go work for a big company. Go work for a startup. Do something and then go back to school and those experiences are from my classmates and it's incredible. But in terms of learning macroeconomics or decision sciences or accounting, I think you can do that anywhere. It's really just the whole experience of being together, going through this is just phenomenal.