



Stanford eCorner

Finding Your Strengths

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Video URL: <http://ecorner.stanford.edu/videos/1236/Finding-Your-Strengths>

Verma talks about his personal transition from engineer to management. He is a strong believer in a technical education, and shies away from general management theories. However, he notes the importance of identifying your strengths, and what you like to do. Everything will fall into place once that happens, he adds.



Transcript

My weakest subject in high school was math and science, which is why and went into engineering. As I have figured, the rest of the stuff would come naturally, so I went into engineering. I am actually a big believer in a very strong technical education, right? Because to be quite candid, a very strong technical education gives you the ability to learn and challenge all the problems. Now that doesn't mean you stop there, right? After that, the transition actually came much more easily to me because I have never felt I was a great engineer. Everybody had patents but all of my patents are derivative patents. None of them are fundamental technology patents. I always saw my strength as being combining this with a little bit of this and a little bit of that, and you know meshing it all together and coming up with something unique. So by most circumstances, I sucked as an engineer and so my engineers are very happy. I mean right now, there is a sign in our lab that says, "Vic, keep out." They think I should not be allowed in the lab at all. But I think the biggest element on that transition, is I did take a couple of-- I think I was at the-- A buyer says there is AEA Stanford Executive education type program.

So those were very helpful. I think the case-study method is a very helpful. I am not a big fan of pure MBA, because I actually believe that this concept of general management is overblown. But I am very big fan of, you know, a very strong technical education followed by you know, a finance type class so that you'll understand and that's a good one to understand right now because you need to make sure, you know, "goes in, goes out", you got to make sure that there is money at the end of it. And the second thing is some of these executive, you know, MBA type programs that are around, I think they are very helpful. So you have to make up your own mind as to what you want to do and what gives you joy. In my case, I could design stuff, I just wasn't very good at it. I am new maybe to move into marketing as well as to sales because I enjoy the customer interaction. So I think once you figure out what you really like to do, you will end up going in that direction, and gravitating towards that.