



Stanford eCorner

Career Advice: Don't Wait to be Anointed

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Seelig advises that just as entrepreneurs empower themselves, you too should not wait for someone to tell you that you are empowered to take on a new responsibility. Just do it, she adds.

Transcript

You don't have to wait to be anointed. Now it's interesting. When I grew up as a kid, my father was a very successful corporate executive and every couple of years, he would come home and have another promotion to this level and this level and this level. One day, I came home when I was a young adult and I had printed out business cards and they said Tina Seelig, president. He looked at me like what are you talking about? Who are you to say that you're the president? He had always worked in companies where actually every year or two you get promoted. Someone else tells you yes, you're now moving up to the next level. What I realized at that point is that entrepreneurs are those people who make their own business cards. They're the ones who decide what they can do. They're not the ones who wait for someone else to tell them what they can do. I would encourage you to think about this in every place in your life.

It doesn't mean you just have to go start a company, but the way that I view this is you do the job and then you get the job. That happens in so many organizations. You don't have to wait for someone to tell you that you are empowered to take on a new responsibility or to take a leadership role. Just take the role. Do it, embrace it, and people will then come to you and say, you know what, you are a leader and we're going to now give you the business card. I want to leave you with the thought that entrepreneurs are those people who don't wait for others to empower them. They empower themselves. You with all the skills that you have here certainly have the power in your hands to take on the different roles that you know that you can embrace.