



Stanford eCorner

Choosing the Path Least Worn

Mari Baker, *PlayFirst*

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Video URL: <http://ecorner.stanford.edu/videos/2230/Choosing-the-Path-Least-Worn>

Mari Baker, CEO of PlayFirst, tells a story from early in her career of eschewing a well-paid job at an established company for a lesser position with a smaller firm. She listened to her gut instinct, which leaned in favor of the upstart opportunity and the chance to work with a more stimulating, more knowledgeable team. Though it was a daunting short-term financial decision, the upstart job was with Intuit, which went on to become a very successful enterprise and the right path overall for her career.



Transcript

I went to Intuit early on; again, in the notion of I was looking... I had two offers, one from Intuit and one from another company where I had a much more financially attractive offer - much better company, bigger company, looked like it was going to be around for a while - but made the decision to go to Intuit. There were about 30 people at Intuit at that time. Nobody had ever heard of the company. Nobody had really heard of Quicken or Intuit. But made the decision to go there because of the people, because by the time you got done interviewing with all the people, the senior leadership, having confidence that these guys had seen enough things, had enough experience that I could really learn from them. That was absolutely the wrong financial decision to have made in the short term, but the absolute right decision to have made over the long run of being involved with people and who were very thoughtful, very methodical, and again creating opportunities to learn and grow in responsibility.