



Stanford eCorner

Don't Wait to be Anointed

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Video URL: <http://ecorner.stanford.edu/videos/2271/Dont-Wait-to-be-Anointed>

Don't think of a job as just getting a desk and a job description. Tina Seelig, Executive Director of Stanford Technology Ventures Program, points out that landing a job means getting a key to the building. And what that key unlocks is entirely up to you. The endless possibilities of creating work, new projects, and developing ideas that cater to your passions are available to any employee in any office. Seelig urges entrepreneurial thinking in the workplace, and tells students that they should build the ladder below themselves, rather than waiting for someone else to put it before them.



Transcript

So let's move on to another concept, and that concept is, "Don't wait to be anointed." We all think that when we go into organizations, we are waiting for people to tell us what we are to do, right? We look for jobs. We wait for people to give us our assignments. But you know what? In most organizations there are endless other opportunities waiting there for you to turn into something wonderful. I realized the other day that when you get a job you aren't getting that job. You are getting the key to that building. And as soon as you're in that building it's up to you to figure out all of the other things you can do. And if you look at people who have really been successful that is what they have done. They haven't waited for other people to anoint them, for other people to tell them what to do. It's funny because this happened in my own life years ago when I started my first company. It was 1991 and I had written my first book and I said, "You have got to be kidding.

There's got to be better way to market books." So I decided to start a company called BookBrowser that was a multimedia system to try to match books with buyers, and this was before the Web. It was a kiosk-based system and I pulled together all the ideas, and I put together a team, and I printed up business cards that said, "Tina L. Seelig, President." And I showed them to my dad. My dad looked at me and he said, "You've got to be kidding. You can't just call yourself President." Now, he had been a very, very successful multinational corporate executive and had risen up for the ranks from being an individual contributor, an engineer, and every couple of years getting a promotion, and promotion, and promotion, and promotion. So he looked at me as this little kid and said, "You can't just call yourself president," and I realized that was what entrepreneurs do. Entrepreneurs make their own business cards. They are the ones who are willing to build the ladder below them, as opposed to waiting for someone to put the ladder up in front of them. And this doesn't just happen with starting a company, it something that happens in any organization that you can be part of.