



Stanford eCorner

You Are the CEO of What?

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Why is it important to learn about entrepreneurship? Entrepreneurship is about finding value and excitement in what you do, states Hara CEO Amit Chatterjee. Chatterjee no longer needs an alarm clock, as his passion for his current work is enough to propel him awake every morning. He encourages aspiring students and entrepreneurs to figure out what they are the CEO of - which means finding deeper value in the work one chooses to do each day.



Transcript

Why is it important to learn about entrepreneurship? I think there's something that I heard someone once say: "You are the CEO of what?" And it's a story that emanates from Jim Collins' books where he's talking about the Empire State Building and at the bottom floor there's a guy clearing garbage out and they ask him, "What do you do?" And everyone's like, "Well, this is obvious, you're clearing garbage out." And the guy said, "My responsibility is to make the Empire State Building immaculate for when people walk in the next day." He was a CEO of the cleanliness of that building. Entrepreneurship is about finding value in what you do, not about getting the right organic chemistry equation to balance. Or not - in Political Science, we explain "5% of the world, 95% of the way through," it's not about that. It's about finding what it is that you do that every day you wake up you're excited about. Magic Johnson once said that the world he lives in is so exciting, he doesn't need an alarm clock. The first few companies I had, I never had that feeling. Now I have that feeling. I don't need an alarm clock to get out of bed because the excitement that I have around what I do, just passion, drives me to want to get out. And I think that's where entrepreneurialism gets really exciting.