



Stanford eCorner

Make Your Life Legendary

Mike Maples Jr., *Floodgate*

January 27, 2016

Video URL: <http://ecorner.stanford.edu/videos/3749/Make-Your-Life-Legendary>

Silicon Valley veteran Mike Maples Jr. shares heartfelt advice urging aspiring entrepreneurs to "only do things that you think have a chance to be legendary." By committing to always doing exceptional work and being around inspiring people, Maples says you will reap the cumulative benefits of a lifetime of excellence, and be able to enjoy it again whenever you look back.



Transcript

The thing that I would highly urge you to consider is to only do things that you think have a chance to be legendary. It takes just as much work to do something mediocre as to do something legendary. And the mistakes you'll make, if you make them in the next decade or so, will be because you didn't take the time to consider if the next thing that you were going to do was truly legendary. Don't let yourself be 30 years old, having been at four mediocre startups. That's a bad use of your first decade out of school. A good use of your time, regardless of whether you do startup or not, in my opinion, is to always work with the people who excite you, who you think are excellent, who will make you better, to engage with the projects that you think are going to make a difference. And just to commit yourself without exception to doing kick-ass exceptional work. Just don't forget that. You have your whole life ahead of you to get the cumulative benefits of that. There will be temptations.

There will be chatter and noise. But just turn off the noise and the hype, and just stay focused on that. And I think that if you can do that and put all your energy and enthusiasm into those things that have a chance to be truly legendary, that's how you get involved in exceptional things that you're proud of, and that you look back on and you get to enjoy your life twice, because you get to remember all the cool things that you did.