



Stanford eCorner

Better People Make You Better

Kevin Weil, *Instagram*

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Video URL: <http://ecorner.stanford.edu/videos/5277/Better-People-Make-You-Better>

“People are everything,” says Kevin Weil, head of product at Instagram. “No one actually does anything on their own. Everything you accomplish, you accomplish with teams.” He explains how personal growth and professional advancement occur when you surround yourself with intelligent and highly skilled people who challenge you to improve and adopt a different perspective.



Transcript

No one actually creates anything in a vacuum. No one actually does anything on their own. Everything that you accomplish, you accomplish with teams. And, success is surrounding yourself with other great people who are smarter than you, who push you, who are better than you at lots of things. I think, you know, academically maybe I realize that. You know, now we've lived it for 10 or 11 years. Like everything you accomplish, you do, because you're surrounded by great people. So, finding ways to surround yourself by the best people you possibly can, the smartest people, the people that push you to be better. Is probably the best think you can do. It's also, like as I, as I grew within Twitter, every job that I had was the biggest job that I'd ever had.

I was managing more people than I'd ever managed. I had more responsibility than I'd ever had before. And like, it was happening really fast. And it was intimidating. It's always like, that question of why I figured out how to do this job, but now I've got this responsibility. Like, uh oh. I'm not sure I can do this. You go talk to other people, and you realize you're doing this job, but there's somebody up here who's like doing this. And if they can do this, I'll figure this one out. So, people also give me, personally, people give me a lot of perspective.

I don't know. I feel like the more I've been exposed to different ways of thinking, different approaches to the world. Realizing, I don't know. I don't think I would have been able to do the things that I have if I hadn't focused so much on learning from other people. And being around people who are better than me in every possible way.