

URL: <https://stvp.stanford.edu/blog/videos/a-member-of-the-ceo-minority>

Richardson discusses what it is like to be one of only a handful of female top execs of large companies in the U.S.



## Transcript

I get asked this question a lot because it is true, there are not, and now, as of this morning, were fewer women running public companies which is too bad.. So I get the question a lot.. I can answer it in a couple of ways.. One is, and my boss from E.piphany, who I worked for many years, Roger would tell you this if you asked him the question.. What he would say is, what was different about me was, and I think why I never really experienced any gender issues, kind of throughout my career, is because I do not actually think of myself as a woman when I go to work everyday.. I just think, I work.. You know, I work and that guy is smart and that person is good to do this with.. So it does not really enter my thought process.. It never has, and it is probably because I had brothers, and parents who encouraged me, a mother who was a mathematician.. I mean, you can do anything..

So I never really think about it.. I don't think I ever brought that attitude to the office place so I think my peers and my bosses, it was just, here's another person working really hard.. I would encourage that that is a good strategy because I think it is, because I don't think it is relevant.. I will say that the positive news is things have changed a lot in 20 years.. They have changed a lot.. And although you don't see a lot of public company women CEOs, there are some really great ones - Avon, Meg Whitman, Carol Bartz, Autodesk.. I mean, there's lots of really good ones, and lots of women in very, very senior positions now with huge corporations.. And I think the biggest issue is just really one of, I think, women can sometimes get intimidated by it more than they should.. Just put it out of your mind because it is actually at the end of the day, irrelevant, as is your age, as is your ethnic background.. They are just irrelevant in business..

Get the job done.. It is all it is about...