

URL: <https://stvp.stanford.edu/clips/founders-need-founders>

Verge Genomics founder and CEO Alice Zhang emphasizes the importance of founder networks. Founders with a few years of extra experience, she recommends, can be incredible resources—especially when you need impartial advice at 12 a.m.



Transcript

- You know being a founder is a very singular, it's a very challenging and oftentimes it's a really lonely experience.. And so I would not be where I was now if I did not myself find a group of other founders that would eventually become my best friends with the shared experiences.. So these are people that I would literally text at midnight and be like crap I have to fire someone for the first time, how do I fire someone.. And then I would text them like I just fired someone, does anyone want to grab a drink? (audience laughs) So these are people that really have we've seen each other's companies really from beginning all the way through our friends company was just acquired last week.. So that's a picture taken last week and I think this is so important because as a founder, it's really really hard to know where to get good advice.. You're going to be told what to do by your investors, by your advisors, by your employees, none of which for sure has the company's best interest at heart.. And so I think the best advice I've always gotten have been from other founders that have gone through the same thing, especially founders that are about a year or two ahead of me.. And that's really the best way to anticipate what you don't know.. And lastly I feel like building a personal support network for yourself is really key to actually building a sustainable business with (mumbles) because you will need places to look for advice throughout the whole entire journey...