

URL: <https://stvp.stanford.edu/blog/videos/what-is-an-entrepreneur-2>

Gordon Ringold, CEO of the Glaxo-Wellcome Group's Affymax Research Institute, shares what he thinks an entrepreneur is - someone who says, I can do it. Not you can do it



Transcript

The first thing I was in anticipation of this lecture was, I was thinking about, What is an entrepreneur? And I know you've heard lots about entrepreneurship.. And what are the characteristics of entrepreneurs? And I think there's this one fundamental issue that came out when I was giving a lecture on entrepreneurship to the Executive Leadership group at Glaxo Pharmaceutical Company; which in the end, basically is, "I can do it." Not, "You can do it." Not, "We can do it." It's, "I can do it." And in many regards, thinking about my early career when I joined the faculty at Stanford.. And maybe, just a bit before that when you were a postdoctoral fellow or graduate student.. In the end, you are a sole entrepreneur.. Your research program, your career, the experiments that you do or you design are designed by you in order to learn something new, to accomplish something and to establish a reputation based on the work that you do.. Not on the work that a team did.. Not on the work that your Professor does or is known for or did 20 years ago.. It's really a sole entrepreneurship.. And the transition from an academic environment where you're responsible to go out and get your grants, to write for NSF grants, or an IH grant, or to convince somebody to give money to give support you laboratory is fundamentally an entrepreneurial activity.. And so something I want to impress upon, especially students, is that moving into an academic career is as entrepreneurial as moving into an industrial career..

And that they are not segregated as much a one might think they are...