

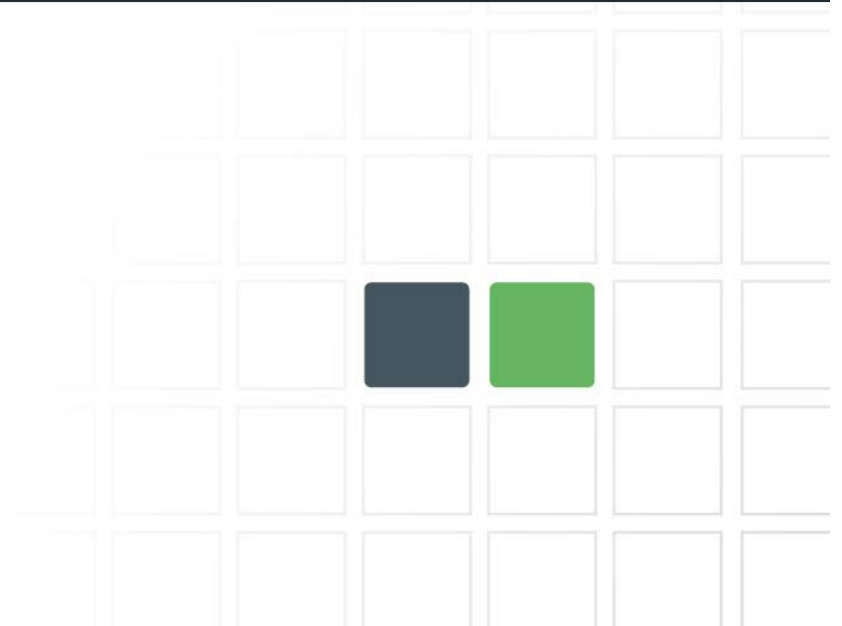


A Journey To Silicon Valley – “Driving” into an Energy Career

Presentation To WITI

Susan Brennan

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Background



- ❑ Degree in Microbiology from the University of Illinois – CU.
- ❑ Moved to Texas – Conducted Research for MD Anderson Hospital and Chemical Research for Hoechst-Celanese.
- ❑ Pursued Master's in Science and then switched to MBA.

Switch to Automotive

- ❑ Changed fields when transferred to Iowa.
- ❑ Took a risk and accepted a job with Douglas and Lomason in Red Oak, Iowa.
- ❑ Continued my MBA and dropped thoughts of attaining a PhD
- ❑ Completed MBA from University of Nebraska in January 1991.
- ❑ Moved to Plant Manager of a Greenfield Automotive Seating Plant in Kansas City, MO

Ford

- ❑ Moved on to Ford Motor Company as a Factory Manager in Wayne, MI.
- ❑ Moved several times within Ford
 - Plant Manager; Baby #1;
 - Director of Manufacturing for multiple assembly plants; Baby #2;
 - Director of Global Manufacturing Strategy.



Nissan



- ❑ After years of restructuring, I moved to Tennessee
- ❑ Vice President of Manufacturing for Nissan's Smyrna and Decherd Tennessee plants.



Today!!



- ❑ After 25 years in the auto industry, restructuring, growing, launching, and bringing in new technology
- ❑ I am now here in Silicon Valley working for Bloom Energy, merging my years of manufacturing while I am learning and leading a technology company.

The Future of Energy – Clean and Distributed

Information & Telecom Revolutions



Personalized technology unleashed a wave of...

- Creativity & innovation
- Business productivity
- Mobility/flexibility
- Market expansion

Energy Revolution



Personalized power is...

- Highly customizable
- Flexible
- Adaptable

Powering the Blue Sky Center at Jabil





What I Learned in Automotive

- Make career changes when the decision is “*Low on Risk and High on Reward*”
- The possibilities are endless so don't close the door on anything.
- Take care of yourself.
- Build and keep networks

What I Learned in Automotive(*Cont'd.*)

□ Be A Lifetime Learner

- ❖ Technology is constantly changing
- ❖ Management styles are constantly changing
- ❖ The economy is constantly changing
- ❖ Develop a plan to keep yourself up to date whether it is reading, joining a professional group, take a yearly course, what ever works for you and keeps you up to date

What I Learned in Automotive(*Cont'd.*)

- ❑ The market place is changing so be prepared to work with people of many generations, some older, some younger
 - ❖ You may be subjected to different management styles in the same company;
 - ❖ Understanding the style of the person you are working for and the style of who they are working for. Being aware of these styles can be very critical to your success.

What I am learning in Silicon Valley



- You can start over at 51!
- Stay true to what has worked for you in the past – for me that is to trust my instincts – have a plan
- Lifelong learning should include coming WAY out of your comfort zone
- Millennials are a blast to work with – they challenge your patience and your leadership – it is all good.
- Silicon Valley culture is a dichotomy – it can across as arrogant but industries ignore SV at their own peril.

What I am learning in Silicon Valley

- ❑ Take advantage of the “acceptance of failure” as part of the culture – find what that means for you and push yourself to try new things and take chances
- ❑ Trends that happen here may not apply to everyone immediately but understand what that means and make sure you are prepared by upskilling yourself to meet changes in the workplace.
- ❑ Cross functional and collaborative are slow but are the basis to innovation in the Valley

Let's Talk



Is this how it really is??



FRESHNESS THAT WORKS
HARDER, BECAUSE YOU HAVE TO
WORK HARDER TO GET AHEAD.



STRESS TESTED
FOR WOMEN

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Advice To Myself for my Next Act



- Stay in shape – aging is tough
- Continue to be a link between the 20th and the 21st Century
- As technology gets moved into consumer goods with consumer safety implications such as cars, the “old school” 20th century disciplines are necessary for execution
- Demonstrate by doing. Be the leader that people see in person, not just by reputation.
- Life is too short. Don't stay stuck somewhere – either in a job or mentally.

Advice To Myself for my Next Act

- I have spent 30 plus years building a Network. Don't lose connection with people who have gotten me here or are in the workforce but still in automotive
- Use social media to have a brand and point of view – make it your own, not your companies and own it.
- GIVE BACK – mentor, speak, role model – the generation behind me can lose ground in the workplace if they don't understand many things they enjoy today are hard won and easily lost

Advice to you

IT'S OUR DAY!

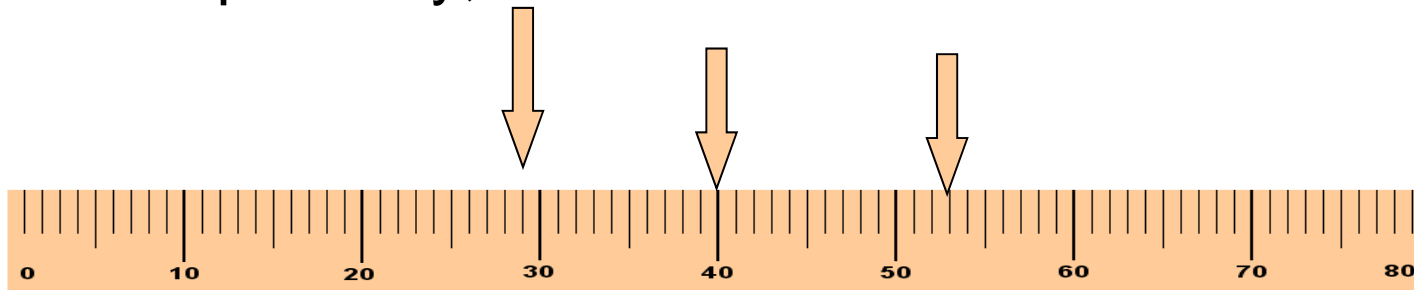


- Take care of yourself (It is YOUR Day)
- Support other women
 - Build your network
 - Be a “safe” person to talk to, find a “safe” person/people to talk to.
- Don’t let yourself be sidelined by a collaborative role – find a job that let’s you lead
- Take risk!! SV is a unique environment – take advantage of the risk environment but be smart!

*Thank you very much for
Listening!*

My advice to you (and myself).

- Make sure you do what you love.
- Other people are very good at spending your time.
- Make sure you are focused on ***your*** goals and that they are clear to you.
- Know your worth – and make sure those around you do too.
- Re-clarify your goals yearly and then act on them.
- Most importantly, find fun!



Q & A