



FUTURE MOBILITY AND CONTINUOUS LEARNING

Sebastian Thrun in dialog with Accenture

VIDEO TRANSCRIPT

LIFELONG LEARNING AT ACCENTURE WITH UDACITY

Interview with founder Sebastian Thrun

Andrew Smith, Industry X.O Lead:

We know you most of all as our teacher from Udacity. What is it about this topic of Continuous Learning that is so important today?

Sebastian Thrun:

The learning has always been the source that made society tick. There is no other thing as powerful as education in history of humanity, to be honest. Udacity started a few years ago when I put a Stanford class online called Introduction to Artificial Intelligence.

WHY IS CONTINUOUS LEARNING SO IMPORTANT TODAY?

Sebastian Thrun:

You can't be a computer scientist and graduate when I graduated in 1985 and wake up in 2019 and imagine how important Blockchain is. How would you? Or what Cyber Security entails or Machine Learning looks like, because this stuff didn't exist in 1985. After ten years your education is outdated. So where we really got to is: We gotta make Learning as persuasive as brushing your teeth twice a day for five minutes. We do this every single day. We can't stay current, we can't stay at the forefront. And we can all be amazing.

WHAT IS THE LEARNING EXPERIENCE LIKE?

Michael Zill, Industry X.O - Product X.O – Embedded SW Lead:

I went personally through that experience and I can only say: It's fantastic.

Sebastian Thrun:

What did you learn?

Michael Zill:

I've attended the self-driving car engineer nano degree which is a challenging thing, to be honest. But what I found extremely interesting and motivating is to really get back to the university, so to say, and learn something new, having time to focus on something in a depth, which you typically aren't able to in your day-to-day job.

HOW DOES IT MAKE YOU FEEL?

Sebastian Thrun:

AND HOW DID YOU FEEL?

Michael Zill:

Obviously, it makes you proud of yourself. It is an extremely good feeling to spend time, your valuable time, because obviously there is a day job, there is a family, there are a lot of other options to spend your time on, but it's an extremely good feeling to get out of this once you've achieved it and once you have learned something. (turns to Frederieke) Do you want to share some of your experiences as well?

Frederieke Reiners, Digital Business Integration Manager, Industry X.O:

It was challenging, I felt like going back to university. You really need to use your brain again.

Sebastian Thrun:

Did you like that?

Frederieke Reiners:

It was amazing. I loved it.

Sebastian Thrun:

So you're saying you don't use your brain in a normal day at work?

Frederieke Reiners:

I do use it, but not in that way. Differently. It's a lot of managing things, a lot of coordination, but the course is really challenging

Sebastian Thrun:

So once you put the time in you feel great?

Frederieke Reiners:

Yes, the time just flew by. I didn't realize the time passing by. I was sitting there midnight, looking on the watch and it was 2 a.m. in the morning – and I said: Okay, better go to bed now. I didn't realize that the weekends passed by. That was amazing. Just the feeling on passing one of the projects.

WHAT DID YOU NEED TO BRING?

Sebastian Thrun:

You need a desire to want to be digitally transformed. After you go through a class, you are a different human being. You are a member of a special tribe. You have special powers. But it's not painless. You'll have to engage, you'll have to put time in and take time-out to do it and learn those skills. But once you really get in it is addictive, it's really amazing. So I love learning new stuff.

AND WHERE DOES LEARNING DEVELOP TO?

Leah Langheim, Global Talent lead for IX.O:

How do you foresee learning to evolve over the next decade? Because it did change drastically when you example about Stanford and you'll have these thousands of people around the world who can now learn and study, but how do you foresee this?

Sebastian Thrun:

This is why Udacity is working with Accenture. Historically we didn't live this long. We would go into a job and stay in this job for the rest of our life. Our employer no. 1 was our last employer. And that is changing. The amount of tenure is shrinking, technology is vanishing much, much faster and people live longer and work longer than ever before. So what that means is that we have to move from a one time learning perspective, where we think we've done everything after we get our university degree to a lifelong learning perspective.

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