



ACCENTURE'S RAH THOMAS ON THE SIGNIFICANCE OF HIS DREADLOCKS

VIDEO TRANSCRIPT

Obviously, you can see that I have dreadlocks. And I've had dreadlocks for ... since 2000. So about 18 years I've had this hair. And, part of my culture, I can't cut my hair unless someone dies, or someone is born.

As I got into corporate America, I had to make some decisions on, if this was going to work. And I was actually interviewing for another company, that I won't say, but they had challenges with my hairstyle. And it was pretty clear, he was saying, "Hey, this is not how we do business, and we'd like to make sure we make some changes." And I declined the offer.

I had to make a decision on, if corporate America was going to define me, or if I was going to continue to be able to define myself inside of corporate America. So, that decision early on I had to make.

Now that I'm here, I think the first thing I'd have to say is that, you will be judged for your appearance, period. I think you should not be deterred when you do get judged based on your appearance, 'cause it will happen in your life. However, there are good leadership out there that's supporting people. And Accenture's done some good research around, if you bring your whole self to work, you are more likely to progress throughout your career. You feel more empowered.

And it's always about this environment of being empowered. It is three prongs, you have to have bold leadership, you have to have empowerment of the environment and then you have to have direct actions and policies.

So, if you do your part by being empowered, and bringing yourself to work, you can actually jump-start your career, and really start making some significant progress.