

# 'Follow your dreams and do what you are good at'

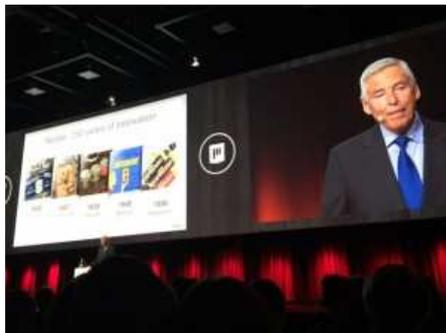
Friday, April 15, 2016

This week the Presidents Summit was held in Copenhagen. This summit is organized by the Presidents Institute twice a year. Keynote speakers included Andy Palmer, CEO of Aston Martin, and Peter Brabeck-Letmathe, Chairman of Nestlé.

Andy Palmer, CEO of the world famous British sports car brand Aston Martin, referred to himself as a dropout during his keynote speech. He dropped out of school at the age of 16. He wanted just one thing: to work at Aston Martin. This was his childhood dream that would become a common thread throughout his professional career. He started working as an apprentice at Automotive Products, a manufacturer of auto parts. In the ensuing 35 years he worked his way up to CEO of Aston Martin – a company with a rich history of over 100 years that makes mostly exclusive sports cars – with the objective of making the company financially sound.



Aston Martin in Copenhagen



Peter Brabeck-Letmathe in Copenhagen

Peter Brabeck-Letmathe, Chairman of the Board of Directors and former CEO of the Swiss multinational Nestlé – the renowned producer of nutritional and wellness products – also stressed in his keynote speech that it is essential to do things that you really enjoy and that you are good at. He called his decision to join Nestlé as a salesman 40 years ago a decision that he has never regretted. He felt drawn to the company's objective of making good quality food products and sharing them with the world. This objective still inspires him today as Chairman. People are the main driver for the company. Brabeck-Letmathe gave important advice: do things that you are good at.

These two remarkable statements show that making choices based on your affinities can ensure that you build a successful career that also makes you happy. If you follow your dreams and go where your passion lies, you can go far.