



NCTI 2008 Innovators Conference

Session Title	Keynote Address: <i>Yes You Can!</i>
Name of Presenter	Jim Stovall, Co-founder and President, Narrative Television Network (NTN)
Date	Thursday, November 20, 2008

Summary: Jim Stovall, Co-founder and President, Narrative Television Network (NTN); Author, *The Ultimate Gift*, gave a rousing inspirational and motivating keynote address to set the tone for the conference.

Key statements that Jim shared:

Just because we've communicated does not mean we've collaborated.

Just because you're inventing doesn't mean you're innovating. Innovation changes people's lives.

Just because we're creating activity does not mean that we're generating productivity. That will be ever more critical in the coming days.

Success lies in the right person at the right time doing the right thing in the right place at the right time.

Everyone has to have a mission statement. Even more important, you and I must have a mission statement – we must be clear about why we do what we do. It's not that everyone doesn't do good things, it's that we get caught up on the good things and we fail to do the GREAT things.

Success involves not only saying yes to good things, but to often saying no to good things that will keep you from great things. That mission statement also helps me keep clear what I don't do.

We live up to the expectations we have of ourselves or the expectations we allow others to place on ourselves. Life is great, grand, and wonderful, but it is not fair. We don't always get what we want, or need, or deserve. We inevitably, though, get what we expect. Check your expectations. If you're honest with yourself,

You can change your life by simply changing your mind!

When it comes to that big dream, it is always too soon to quit!



It doesn't matter what that big dream is inside of you and the difference you want to make, the answer is, "Yes, you can!" The dream would not be put inside of you if you did not have the capacity to do it.

**There's no such thing as an insignificant relationship.
There is no such thing as an insignificant day. Every day's a gift. Every day's a journey.
There's no such thing as an insignificant moment.**

Discussion

John Williams: What is the key to a blind person succeeding in a global economy and workplace?

Jim Stovall: I think a lot of keys to a lot of work we do is making the technology as universal as it can be.

Steve Jacobs: How do we get that message into the hearts of kids?

Jim Stovall: You begin exactly where you are. The powerful thing is when kids can talk to each other. They get to talk together to figure out the differences and similarities in what they are experiencing. The more we can do things like that, the better.

For parents and educators, the most powerful lesson: you have to have the things in your life that you want people to learn. In our society, there's a lot said and very little done. And kids would rather watch it than talk about it.

Cynthia Overton: Can you elaborate on strategies for collaboration in a global marketplace?

Jim Stovall: I think so many people are afraid to say: I don't know or I don't understand or How could that apply to me? We're all so quick to tell people what we do or find out what they do, but we need to find out why and so-what so that we can get to the point where we can figure out what we can do with that.

J. J. Seri: One of the things my organization is struggling with is student disengagement. Have you seen the video, *Did You Know?* As people are struggling with the idea that students are disengaging (using tons of tech at home and go to school and are bored to death). What's the impact of that on students with various differences.

Jim Stovall: Kids are like anybody else. They disengage when they don't see relevance. Educators who work in that realm know that they have a captive audience who can't go anywhere.



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Only when you can tell a great story or make a point touch their hearts, only then do you earn the right to share a lesson with them. We have to earn that right and be relevant in their lives.

Tracy Gray: What is your sense of accessibility on the Internet?

Jim Stovall: The Internet is great, but we will not solve this accessibility issue on the internet alone. Every solution creates another problem!

Jim Stovall: I remember sitting in that 9x12' room. Had I only known that there were people like you gathering in rooms, bringing together your collective vision and drive, it would have made a difference for people like me.