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Focus

A Newsletter published for clients and friends of Wagner Consulting Group

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Growth Disciplines

"On the back cover of the final issue of The Whole Earth Catalog was a photograph of an early morning country road, the kind you might find yourself hitchhiking on if you were so adventurous. Beneath it were the words: 'Stay Hungry. Stay Foolish.' It was their farewell message as they signed off. I have always wished that for myself. And now, as you graduate, I wish that for you."

—Steve Jobs, June 2005 Stanford University commencement address

Steve Jobs used his personal experience as founder, former CEO, and current CEO of Apple Computer to urge Stanford graduates to find and carry out work about which they are passionate. Good advice. But passion without discipline can lead to bad outcomes. Successful growth companies (firms that prosper in good times and bad) consistently excel at four disciplines.

Performance standards which permeate the environment are the first discipline. You can feel the intensity as people push themselves to do more. The costs of mediocrity are well known, and leaders have little tolerance for indifferent performance.

The second discipline is **leaders who model the behavior** they want to see in others. Subordinates closely note what gets the leader's attention, and behave accordingly.

Focus is the third discipline. Clear and unwavering priorities, with a relentless focus on execution, is a hallmark of companies that consistently deliver good results.

Finally, the best growth companies are maniacal about recruiting, developing, and retaining great **talent**. They constantly assess their people to identify rising stars and weed out underperformers.

All companies can consistently thrive, but only a few exhibit the will to exercise the necessary discipline.

Tom Wagner

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We help clarify options so our clients identify the Right Questions and solve the Right Problems.

Call us at 800 422-1374 to learn more.

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