

Michael Stevenson on Cisco's Global Education Investment

Michael Stevenson, Cisco VP of Global Education, talks about Cisco's investment in 21st century education and how it facilitates system change.

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Five years ago, I don't think we had networking technologies of the weight and ability to shift big systems that we have today. So, we do have those now. Wait another five years and, of course, the networking technologies will be even better. But that would be another half-generation of kids that had to go without.

So now, I think, is the moment. But let me qualify it in this way: This is not simply about networking technologies. This is not an educational technology offer. This is about education transformation, which takes advantage of networking technologies to drive it. And that's the critical distinction.

So, three to five years would be a reasonable time-scale to expect to see measurable change in learner outcomes, to use that jargon, if you start with the technologies and go through the pedagogy.

This is a company which came out of Stanford University 20 years ago. It remembers its educational roots. It's a company that knows that if it can help education systems around the world, there will be huge benefit. And benefit back to Cisco, in terms of those that it can then employ. Everything, therefore, in terms of its own roots and aspirations, and its own self-interest, points to sticking with it and making it happen.

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