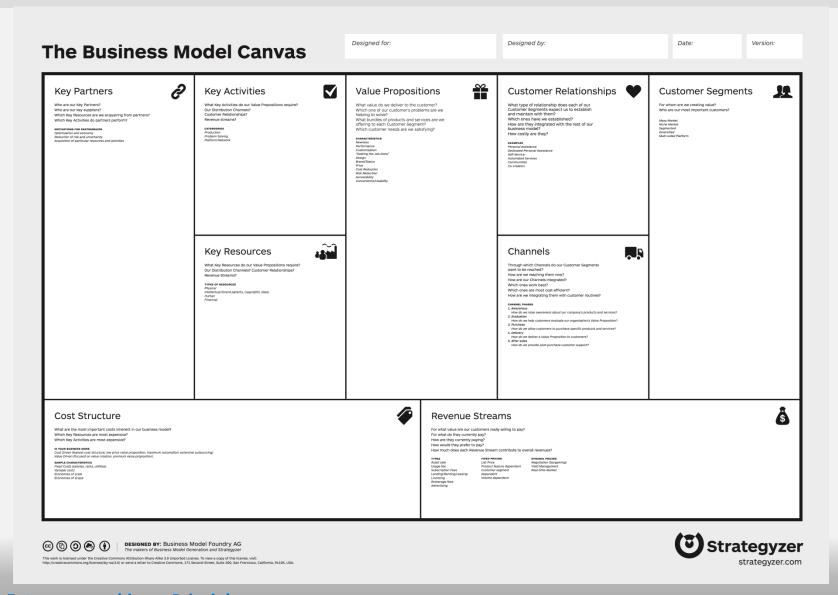
# The Lean Launchpad and Business Model Canvas

Dr. Jack M. Wilson, Distinguished Professor of Higher Education, Emerging Technologies, and Innovation



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#### -from business plan competitions to the lean launch pad.

Entrepreneurship today is in a state of flux as the field has recoiled from the prescriptive approach of the last decade in which the business plan, and business plan competitions, defined the science of entrepreneurship. The annoying fact that many, if not most, new businesses simply did not use business plans was viewed as something undesirable and needing to be corrected.

As scholars looked at start-ups in a systematic fashion, they also observed that even those that did have business plans rarely executed those business plans in a linear fashion. In fact, most successful new businesses ended up on a trajectory that was not envisioned in the original plan. The ability of a new venture to change its business model dramatically in mid-course has come to be known as a **pivot**. This has led to many scholars abandoning the idea of the business plan altogether. In Chapter 6 on Feasibility, we introduced the concepts of effectuall entrepreneurship as developed by Saras Sarasvathy. She studied entrepreneurship carefully and has criticized the causal process as much too deterministic. Life is simply not that orderly! She has proposed an alternative formulation that she terms "the effectual entrepreneur." In her formulation there are five major principles:

**Bird in Hand** – Who are you? What do you know? Who do you know? What do you have?

Affordable Loss –Limit risk by focusing on the downside and knowing what you can afford to lose when you go after the upside.

**Lemonade** – Use your lemons to make lemonade. Use the bad news as a clue to what might work in new markets.

**Patchwork Quilt** – Form partnerships. Working together can increase the probability of success through co-creation of new markets.

**Pilot in the Plane** –Control rather than predict. The future is created rather than found or predicted.

- <u>http://www.effectuation.org/sites/default/files/documents/what-makes-entrepreneurs-entrepreneurial-sarasvathy.pdf</u>
- <u>http://www.effectuation.org/sites/default/files/documents/effectuation-3-pager.pdf</u>
- <u>http://www.imd.org/news/Creating-entrepreneurs-that-create-opportunities-the-Effectual-Entrepreneurship-textbook.cfm</u>
- see also Effectual Entrepreneurship", by Stuart Read, Saras Sarasvathy, Nick Dew, Robert Wiltbank and Anne-Valérie Ohlsson Routledge Publishing; NY, NT (2010).

# The Lean Launchpad

• In this chapter we will introduce the concept of the lean launchpad, as it is used in the National Science Foundation iCorp Program to encourage scientists and engineers to move their research into the market place through entrepreneurship.

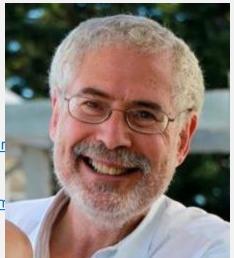
<u>http://www.nsf.gov/news/special\_reports/i-corps/resources.jsp</u>

- You will no doubt notice the similarities to the approach and the conclusions that Steve Blank reached in the development of the lean launchpad.
- Sarasvathy is a scholar who has done a careful study and published her work in peer reviewed journals to be evaluated and perhaps substantiated (or refuted) by her peers. She refers to her model as "Effectual Entrepreneurship."
- Blank is a serial entrepreneur of some success who draw on his personal experiences and is a consumer of research rather than a producer. His formidable marketing skills have made the lean launchpad a hot topic around the world.

- http://www.forbes.com/sites/steveblank/2013/06/18/the-lean-launchpad-educators-course/#df15d0d43a74

# Steve Blank

- Steve Blank became the leading apostle of business plan rejection about five years ago. In 2009 he wrote that "In the real world, most business plans don't survive the first few months of customer contact. And even if they did – customers don't ask to see your business plan. Steve advocated for the supremacy of business models and he enshrined the concept of the pivot as part of his mantra of the "Customer Development Process" with the concepts of
  - "minimum viable product (MVP),"
  - "iterate and pivot",
  - "get out of the building," and
  - "no business plan survives first contact with customers."
- http://www.forbes.com/sites/steveblank/2013/06/18/the-lean-launchpad-educators-cour
- <u>http://steveblank.com/about/</u>
- http://steveblank.com/2009/05/07/business-plan-competitions-2/
- <u>http://www.businessinsider.com/the-lean-launchpad--teaching-entrepreneurship-as-a-m</u>
- <u>https://www.udacity.com/course/how-to-build-a-startup--ep245</u>
- <u>http://www.entrepreneur.com/article/219772</u>
- http://nciia.org/sites/default/files/u7/Educators%20Guide%20Jan%202014.pdf



#### Steve Blank says:

- After decades of watching thousands of startups follow this standard regimen, we've now learned at least three things:
  - As business plans are full of untested assumptions, they rarely survive first contact with customers. As the boxer Mike Tyson once said about his opponents' prefight strategies: "Everybody has a plan until they get punched in the mouth."
  - No one, aside from venture capitalists and the former Soviet Union, requires fiveyear plans to forecast a series of unknowns. These plans are generally fiction, and conceiving them is almost always a waste of time.
  - Startups are not smaller versions of large companies. They do not unfold in accordance with master plans. Those that ultimately succeed go quickly from failure to failure, all the while adapting, testing new iterations, and improving their initial ideas as they continually learn from customers.
- Existing companies execute a business model, startups search for one. This distinction is at the heart of the Lean Startup approach. It shapes the lean definition of a startup:
  - a temporary organization designed to search for a repeatable and scalable business model.
    - <u>http://nciia.org/sites/default/files/u7/Educators%20Guide%20Jan%202014.pdf</u>

To be fair to many others in the field, his insights into the shortcomings of the business plan were not entirely new, and were probably more a reaction to the way the business plan had become unexamined enshrined dogma that hampered development rather than helped. The problem was not that doing a business plan was bad, but that too many people actually believed that the business plan was an actual "plan" in the sense that large companies create plans. Most of those who taught entrepreneurship already knew that the business plan was something that required regular testing and revision.

I often told my students that the last step in the development of ANY plan was to step back and ask yourself what you were going to do when the plan did not go as planned.

Blank made the significant contribution of pulling together the alternate approaches, rebranding it, and it marketing it into key constituencies —with one of his students, **Eric Reis**. Their Lean-Launchpad model of entrepreneurship now bills itself as the "evidence based entrepreneurship" model and Blank has even trademarked the latter term.

# NSF and the iCore Program

- The National Science Foundation embraced Blank's and Reis' formulation of new venture development when they launched their iCore program a couple of years ago. In many ways they viewed it as a more scientific approach to venture creation that used the method of hypothesis formation, quick testing, revision, further testing, and continuous refinement. Fields as disparate as science and creative writing would perceive this process as the continuous refinement of drafts while writing. It is indeed the way the world works. We build new models of anything we study as we find out more and more detail through research. And so it is with entrepreneurship.
- <u>http://www.nsf.gov/news/special\_reports/i-corps/</u>
- In the new model, the business model canvas, originally proposed by Alexander Osterwalder becomes the starting point. (See an example below)
- <u>http://businessmodelgeneration.com/canvas</u>

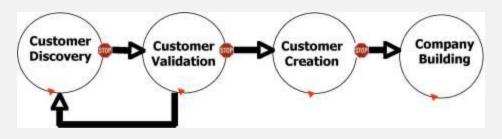
- This transition continues to play out in entrepreneurship education programs across the country –as well as at UMass. The most used textbooks are built under the old paradigm. Business plan competitions continue to be held in spite of Steve Blank's pronouncement that "I hate business plan competitions."
- Just as physicists teach Newton's Laws and the Einstein Theory of Relativity –which extends and alters Newton's laws, entrepreneurship education needs to introduce students to the process of business planning as well as the limitations and the alternative formulations, like Blank's, that have emerged.
- We also need to alert students to the danger of allowing any model (including Blank's) to morph into a dogma that could constrain innovation.

Customer versus Product Development

Steve Blank:

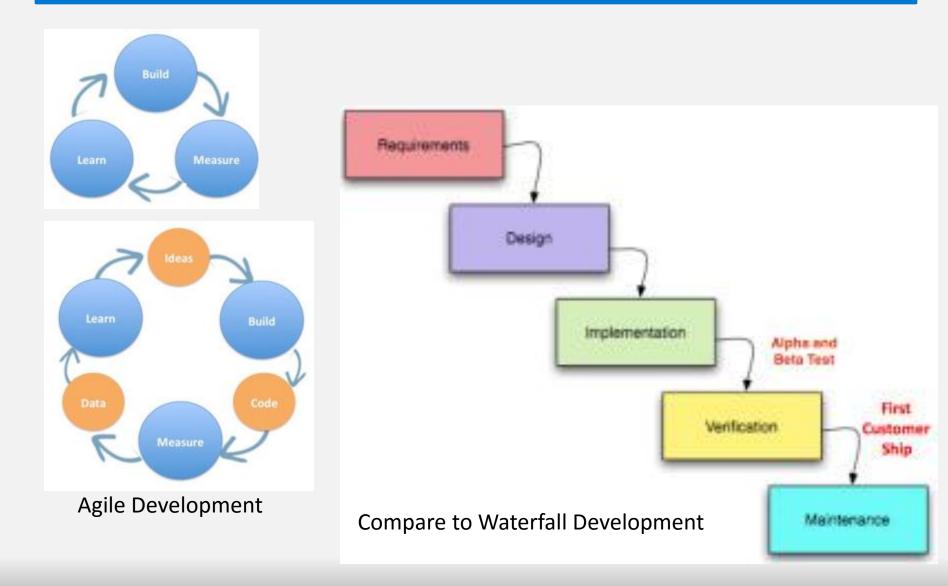
- Get out of the building (physically or virtually)
  - Talk to customers, ask them questions, and listen.
- Sales calls aren't your IQ test or PhD defense
- Stop talking and listen to the customers problem
- Hire a sales team at the Customer Validation step
- Match the sales team to market type
  - <u>http://steveblank.com/tag/customer-discovery/</u>

# From Customer Discovery to Company Building

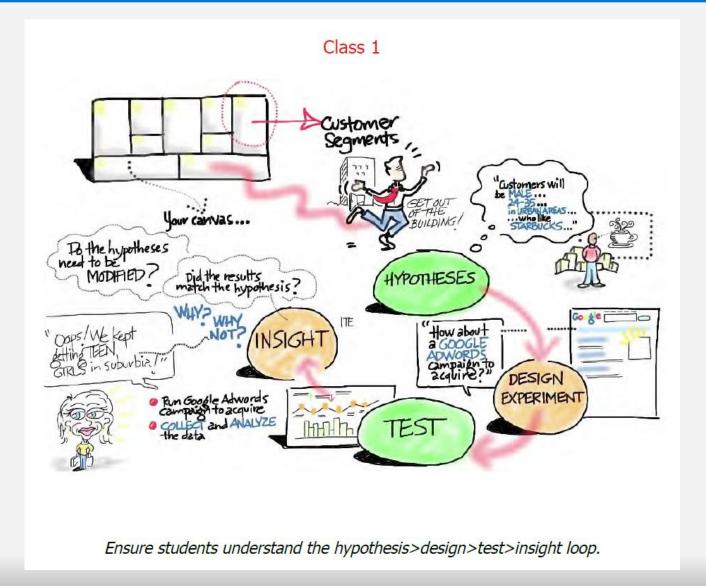


- **Customer Discovery** first captures the founders' vision and turns it into a series of business model hypotheses. Then it develops a plan to test customer reactions to those hypotheses and turn them into facts.
- **Customer Validation** tests whether the resulting business model is repeatable and scalable. If not, the team returns to Customer Discovery.
- **Customer Creation** is the beginning of execution. It builds end-user demand and drives it into the sales channel to scale the business.
- **Company-building** transitions the organization from a startup to a company focused on executing a validated model.

#### Build, Measure, Learn (repeat)



#### **Agile Process**



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# **MVP-** Minimum Viable Product

- In product development, the minimum viable product (MVP) is the product with the **highest return on investment versus risk**.
  - The term was coined and defined by Frank Robinson, and popularized by Steve Blank, and Eric Ries
- An MVP is not a minimal product, it is a strategy and process directed toward making and selling a product to customers.
- It is an iterative process of idea generation, prototyping, presentation, data collection, analysis and learning.
  - One seeks to minimize the total time spent on an iteration.
  - The process is iterated until a desirable product/market fit is obtained, or until the product is deemed to be non-viable.

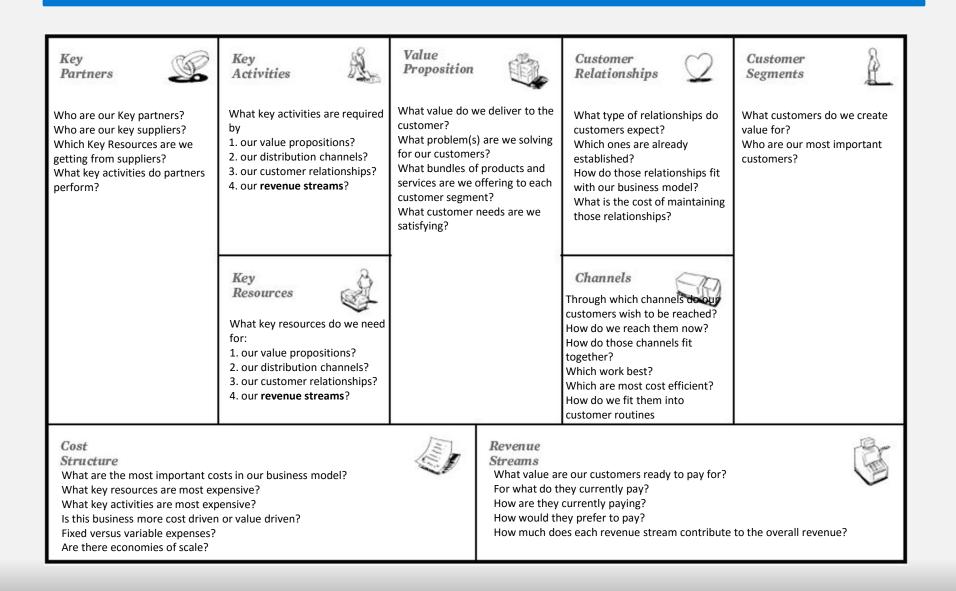
 http://steveblank.com/2013/07/22/an-mvp-is-not-a-cheaper-product-its-aboutsmart-learning/

# Pivot

- What you learn in the customer development process or in the buildmeasure-learn process will OFTEN cause you to change direction.
- The Pivot
- This is not a sign of failure.
- It is a sign of success.

- Many teams believe "a company is all about my **invention**." Your goal is to teach them "it's all about the business model."
- The MVP, pivots, and Customer Development conserve cash,
  - and can accelerate the time it takes to discover a viable product-market fit.

#### Blank Business Model Canvas



- Value Proposition What value does the company bring to the customers?
- Customer Segments What market segment(s) are being targeted by the company?
- **Channels** How do they reach the customers –go to market (market, deliver, support)?
- **Customer Relationships** How does the business develop and retain the customer relationships?
- **Key Activities** What activities need to occur to make the company successful?
- **Key Resources** How does the company get its resources?
- **Key Partners** *Who are the key partners?*
- **Revenue Streams** How does the company generate its revenues?
- **Cost Structure** *What costs does the business incur?* 
  - <u>http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Business\_Model\_Canvas</u>

#### Example- Zynga's Business Model Canvas

- http://freethinkingbrian.files.wordpress.com/2013/09/zynga\_business\_model\_canvas.jpg

#### The Business Model Canvas

Key PartnersFacebookFacebookPayPal AmexZazzleSVNetworkAdvertisers (Bing, McDonalds, General Mills etc)7-Eleven Target Best Buy GameStopInComm	Key ActivitiesGame Creation ProcessesCustomer Support Maintaining existing gamesMaintaining existing gamesKey Resources Game Designers / Artists / Developers / TestersSales & Marketing teamsSales & Marketing teamsExisting Games for Cross Promotion	Value Proposi Free To Play Mindless Entertainmo Social Intera	, ent	Customer Relationships Customer Support and Forums on Zynga.com Zynga's facebook page Channels Facebook Zynga Live (Coming soon)	Customer Segments Casual Gamers (60% Female & 40% Male according to CNN Tech) Advertisers		
Cost Structure       Usual cost of operating a business (Rent, Salaries etc)         R&D on new Game Ideas       Maintenance         Acquisition of competitors       Generating fresh content for existing games         Promotional Events (Fan Meetups etc)       Promotional Events (Fan Meetups etc)			Revenue Streams Traditional Advertising Revenues Revenue from Advertiser sponsored offers (Lead Generation) In-app Virtual Goods sales				

# LinkedIn Business Model Canvas - http://bmimatters.com/

Key Partners	Key Activities	Value Pro	positions	Relationships	Customer Segments	
	Platform			Same-side Network Effects		
	Development	Manage Pr Identity a Professiona	nd Build	Cross-side Network Effects	Internet Users	
Equinix (for data center facilities)	Key Resource	Identify ar the Righ		Channels	Recruiters	
Content Providers	tent Providers LinkedIn Platform		LinkedIn Website, And Mobile Apps		Advertisers and Marketers	
		Access to Database ( APIs and	Content via	Field Sales	Developers	
	Cost Structure		Revenue Streams			
Web Hosting costs	Marketing and Product Sales Development		Free Offerings and Premium Subscriptions		ns Marketing Solutions	
General and Administrative						

# Google Business Model Canvas - http://bmimatters.com/

		Go	bogle Bu	siness M	0	del			
Key Partners	Key Activities		Value Propositions			Relationships		Customer Segments	
	Proc	D – Build New Jucts, Improve sting products	Web Sear Goog			Automation (wh possible)	iere	Internet Users	
Distribution		age Massive IT frastructure	Targeted / Adwords			Dedicated Sales large account		Advertisers, Ad Agencies	
Partners			Extend Ad using A		L			Google Network Members	
Open Handset Alliance	K	ey Resources	, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,			Channels			
OEMs (for Chrome OS devices)	Datacenters		Display Advertising Mgmt Services			Global Sales and Support Teams		Mobile device owners	
OG devices)				hrome OS Multi-product Sales		ales	Developers		
			Hosted w Google		ľ			Enterprises	
Cost Structure			Revenue Streams						
Traffic Acquisition Costs personnel)		inly				l Revenues – le  n/w websites			
	Data center S&M, G&A			Ente		erprise Product Sales		Free	
www.businessmodelgen	eration.c	om							

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# Privo

- Now let us take a look at a company that was founded and is led by Manijeh Nazari Goldberg, who took two degrees (engineering and computer science) from Umass Lowell and then one each from Harvard and MIT.
- Privo Technologies was formed to commercialize a discovery made in Robert Langer's laboratory at MIT that allowed the delivery of various drugs through encapsulation using nan-technology
  - Privo was a winner of the MIT 100 K Business Plan Competition
    - Their original idea was Nano delivery of insulin by chewing gum
  - Nano Drug Delivery
- In a very tough area of raising money to commercialize. It can take a billion dollars to bring a new drug to market.
- The next page will show their initial business plan canvas.



# Privo echnologies.

# Early Business Model Canvas

Key Partners • NSF, NIH • Mass Life Sciences • Universities • Academic Centers • Venture Capital • Philanthropy	Key Activities • Diabetes Research • Developing trans-mucosal delivery techniques • Fund Raising • Grant Writing Key Resources • Scientists • Mass Life Science	<ul> <li>VALUE PROPOSITIONS</li> <li>Oral mucosal drug delivery</li> <li>Improve patient quality of life</li> <li>Improve compliance relative injections</li> <li>Minimize side effects</li> <li>Reduce hospital Stay</li> <li>Reduce overall cost of healthcare</li> </ul>	Customer Relationship • Endocrinologists as advisors • Large Pharma as partner or purchaser	<ul> <li>CUSTOMER SEGMENTS</li> <li>Type II diabetic patients Patients who need to inject insulin</li> <li>Mucositis Patients that have gone through radiation therapy</li> <li>Oral cancer Patients with the cancer in their mouth</li> </ul>
Cost Structure Salaries Lab space Lab equipment Materials & Supplie Fund Raising IP License & Develo		• Comm	nue Stream nercial Licensing f the company ies	

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# Privo: Learn and Pivot

- As they moved forward they learned both from their successes and their mistakes –and got lots of advice along the way.
- They Interviewed
  - 20 Physicians
  - 40 Scientists
  - 12 Attorneys
  - 6 Multinational Pharmaceutical Co.
- They wrote many Grants (that were peer reviewed) for
  - NCI (National Cancer Institute)
  - NIH (National Institute of Health
  - MLSC (Mass Life Science Center)
  - NSF (National Science Foundation)
  - Next (Rare Disease services)
  - NCL (Nano Characterization)
  - Deshpande MIT
- They met with the governments of 7 other countries

# Pivot

- When an entrepreneurial venture learns from their customers, experience, mistakes, and other sources that they need to take a significantly new direction.
- At that point we say they **Pivot**.
- Research shows that this is very typical of a new venture and is not actually either rare or a fatal flaw.
- You have learned something new about the market -from the market.
- If you are walking down a hall looking for the exit door and you open a door and find that it is a closet, what would you do?
  - Close the closet door and open another door.
- When we compared Effectual Entrepreneurship (EE) to Causal Entrepreneurship (CE) we saw that they (EE) rejected set goals in favor of constant iteration.
- This is also an element of the Lean Launchpad.

Privo echnologies. Current Business Model Canvas Key Partners Key Activities Customer VALUE PROPOSITIONS CUSTOMER SEGMENTS NSF, NIH, NCI Fund Raising Relationship **Replacing existing intravenous Chemo-Wafer Patients**  Mass Life Grant Writing Oncologists as **Oral Cancer chemotherapy**  Age 62+ at diagnosis Optimize Sciences advisors Much Higher efficacy Early Stage OC patients Universities Formulation Pahrma as Better quality of life Academic Build Partnerships advisors/mentors Later Stage OC patients Mfg NP's Centers Oncology Vastly lower toxicity • HPV Patients (male age 40- Pre-clinical trials Angel Investors radiologists • Fase of use Phase 1 Clinical 59) Venture Capital Lower Total Cost New England Trials Oncology surgery patients Hospitals Kev Resources Global Hospitals Channels Other applications Scientists Head & Neck Oncologists · CRO's for Large Pharma as Mass Life Science Deliver other drugs manufacturing, Surgeons partner or NSF, NIH, NCI preclinical and through buccal tissue Maxillofacial and oral purchaser for IP Attorneys using NP permeation Global Business Advisors surgeons Marketing, Sales, Science Advisors Use NP loaded Chemo- General oncology surgeon & Distribution Medical Advisors Wafer (CW) to deliver Large Phama GMP/GLP CRO's drugs to target other Licensing out cancers Cost Structure **Revenue** Stream Materials & Supplies Salaries Commercial Licensing Fund Raising Sale of the company Lab space • **IP License & Development** . Lab equipment ٠ Royalties Legal Beat The Odds 5 **Entrepreneurship: Principles** © 2012 ff -Jack M. Wilson Distinguished Professor Lean Launchpad and Business Model Canvas-26

# Now THAT is quite a pivot!

- You can now see why effectual entrepreneurship focuses on the iterative relationship between means, goals, interactions, and commitments.
- EE is far less goal oriented and far more interested in how one can use the resources at hand to create something of value.
- The Lean Launchpad de-emphasizes detailed planning and emphasizes speed, flexibility, responsiveness (to the market), learning, and pivoting when you learn something important.