

don t burn your bridges

Don't Burn Your Bridges: Why Maintaining Relationships Matters

don t burn your bridges is a phrase many of us have heard, but its meaning goes far beyond just a catchy saying. It's a powerful reminder about the importance of preserving relationships, whether personal or professional, and the potential consequences of severing ties too abruptly or harshly. In a world where connections often lead to opportunities, growth, and support, being mindful about how we handle conflicts and endings can make all the difference.

Let's explore why it's crucial not to burn your bridges, how you can navigate difficult situations with grace, and what benefits come from keeping doors open even when parting ways.

Understanding the Meaning Behind Don't Burn Your Bridges

At its core, the saying "don't burn your bridges" advises against destroying relationships or connections in a way that makes it impossible to go back or reconnect later. Imagine literally burning a bridge behind you — once it's gone, there's no easy way to return or cross over. The phrase metaphorically highlights the risks of acting out of anger, frustration, or haste, leading to permanent damage in relationships.

Why Do People Tend to Burn Bridges?

Burning bridges often happens when emotions run high — whether it's anger after a disagreement, resentment from feeling undervalued, or simply impatience with a particular situation. People might leave jobs on bad terms, end friendships abruptly, or cut off family members without considering the long-term impact.

Common reasons include:

- Feeling betrayed or hurt
- Wanting to make a statement or assert independence
- Believing there's no benefit in maintaining the connection
- Acting impulsively without thinking about future consequences

While it might feel justified in the moment, the fallout can be more damaging than anticipated.

The Real Costs of Burning Bridges

Burning bridges doesn't just hurt relationships; it can also close doors to future possibilities. In both personal and professional spheres, maintaining goodwill often translates to opportunities, support,

and growth.

Professional Implications

Imagine leaving a job and insulting your boss or colleagues. That could mean losing important references, networking opportunities, or even future job offers. The professional world, especially, thrives on connections. A bad reputation can follow you and limit career advancement.

On the other hand, leaving a role on good terms keeps your network intact. Former coworkers might alert you to job openings, recommend you to others, or collaborate with you in the future. In essence, your professional reputation is a valuable asset.

Personal Relationships and Emotional Well-being

In personal life, burning bridges can isolate you from people who once mattered. Family conflicts, falling outs with friends, or ending relationships bitterly can leave emotional scars and loneliness.

Sometimes, time changes perspectives. People grow, learn, and heal, so what seems irreparable now might become something you want to mend later. Keeping lines of communication open or leaving things respectfully can make reconciliation possible.

How to Avoid Burning Bridges in Difficult Situations

Navigating tough conversations or endings without damaging your relationships takes intentional effort. Here are some key strategies to help you part ways or handle conflicts gracefully.

Practice Empathy and Active Listening

Understanding the other person's viewpoint can diffuse tension. Instead of reacting defensively, ask questions and listen carefully. This approach fosters mutual respect even when you disagree.

Communicate Clearly and Respectfully

Be honest but kind. If you're leaving a job or ending a relationship, explain your reasons without blaming or criticizing others. Focus on your feelings and needs rather than their faults.

Take Time to Cool Down

Avoid making hasty decisions or sending angry messages. Give yourself time to process emotions

before taking action. Often, a night's sleep can change your perspective and prevent regrettable behavior.

Offer Solutions or Alternatives

If possible, suggest ways to stay in touch or collaborate in the future. Express gratitude for the shared experience and acknowledge positive aspects.

When Burning Bridges Might Be Necessary

While it's generally wise to preserve relationships, there are times when cutting ties is justified, especially if the relationship is toxic or harmful.

Recognizing Toxic Situations

- Consistent disrespect or abuse
- Manipulation or exploitation
- Unresolved conflicts causing emotional harm

In such cases, prioritizing your well-being is essential. However, even then, aim to disengage without unnecessary hostility — a calm and firm boundary-setting approach can still leave the door open for future peace or understanding.

The Benefits of Keeping Bridges Intact

Choosing not to burn bridges often leads to unexpected advantages that enrich your life.

Networking and Career Growth

Strong professional relationships can lead to mentorship, collaborations, and referrals. It's often said that who you know is as important as what you know, and maintaining your network is key.

Personal Growth and Learning

Remaining open to different perspectives helps you grow emotionally and intellectually. Sometimes, relationships that once seemed difficult become sources of support or valuable lessons.

Peace of Mind

Avoiding unnecessary conflict reduces stress and guilt. Knowing you handled situations with grace gives you confidence and inner peace.

Practical Tips to Repair Burned Bridges

If you feel you've already burned a bridge, it's not necessarily the end. Repairing relationships takes time and effort but can be deeply rewarding.

- **Acknowledge the past:** Admit if you made mistakes or hurt the other person.
- **Offer a sincere apology:** Genuine contrition can open doors.
- **Show changed behavior:** Demonstrate through actions that you value the relationship.
- **Be patient:** Trust may need to be rebuilt gradually.

Even if reconciliation isn't possible, making peace with the situation helps you move forward without resentment.

In life, the connections we make often shape our experiences and opportunities. Remembering the wisdom behind "don't burn your bridges" encourages thoughtful communication, respect, and kindness, even in challenging times. By maintaining relationships with care, we keep the pathways open for growth, understanding, and unexpected opportunities that enrich our journey.

Frequently Asked Questions

What does the phrase 'don't burn your bridges' mean?

The phrase 'don't burn your bridges' means to avoid damaging relationships or connections that you might need in the future.

Why is it important to not burn your bridges in a professional setting?

In a professional setting, not burning your bridges is important because maintaining good relationships can lead to future job opportunities, references, and collaborations.

Can burning bridges have long-term consequences?

Yes, burning bridges can have long-term consequences such as loss of trust, damaged reputation, and missed opportunities.

How can you avoid burning bridges when leaving a job?

You can avoid burning bridges by giving proper notice, expressing gratitude, completing your tasks responsibly, and maintaining professionalism in your communications.

Is it ever acceptable to burn bridges?

While generally discouraged, burning bridges might be acceptable in situations involving toxic environments or abuse where protecting your well-being is a priority.

How does the concept of 'don't burn your bridges' apply to personal relationships?

In personal relationships, it means maintaining respect and kindness even when parting ways, as you may cross paths again or need support later.

What are some signs that you might be about to burn a bridge?

Signs include expressing anger or resentment openly, refusing to communicate respectfully, or making irreversible decisions out of impulse.

How can you repair a burned bridge?

Repairing a burned bridge involves sincere apology, acknowledging mistakes, rebuilding trust over time, and demonstrating changed behavior.

Are there cultural differences in interpreting 'don't burn your bridges'?

Yes, some cultures place more emphasis on maintaining harmony and relationships, making the advice particularly relevant, while others may prioritize individual decisions more strongly.

What are some alternative phrases similar to 'don't burn your bridges'?

Alternative phrases include 'leave the door open,' 'keep your options open,' and 'maintain good relations.'

Additional Resources

Don't Burn Your Bridges: Navigating Professional and Personal Relationships with Care

don t burn your bridges is an expression that resonates deeply in both professional and personal contexts. It serves as a cautionary reminder to maintain positive connections and avoid irreversible actions that could harm future opportunities or relationships. In an era where networking and reputation are more critical than ever, understanding the implications of this adage is essential for sustainable success and growth. This article explores the significance of preserving relationships, the potential consequences of severing ties abruptly, and practical strategies to ensure you keep your bridges intact.

The Importance of Not Burning Bridges in Professional Settings

In the corporate world, your network often acts as a lifeline. Whether you are leaving a job, negotiating a deal, or resolving conflicts, how you handle these interactions can have lasting effects. The phrase **don t burn your bridges** encapsulates the necessity of maintaining goodwill even when parting ways.

Burning bridges in a professional environment can lead to reputational damage, loss of future job opportunities, and diminished referral potential. According to a 2023 LinkedIn survey, 85% of hiring managers emphasized the importance of references and professional relationships when considering candidates. This statistic underscores how critical it is to leave previous roles on good terms.

Moreover, industries today are interconnected more than ever before. Social media platforms like LinkedIn amplify the impact of any negative actions or statements. An impulsive email or a harsh word can be recorded and shared, potentially harming your career trajectory.

Long-Term Career Implications

The consequences of burning bridges extend beyond immediate discomfort or resentment. Former colleagues and supervisors may influence your professional path years down the line. For instance, a former employer might be part of an industry association or a hiring committee, and a negative impression could hinder your progress.

Conversely, maintaining professionalism and courtesy can open unexpected doors. Many successful professionals attribute part of their career growth to strong networks forged through respectful disengagements and ongoing relationship nurturing.

Personal Relationships and the Cost of Burning Bridges

While the phrase is often applied in professional contexts, it is equally relevant in personal relationships. Family, friends, and acquaintances form a social fabric that supports emotional well-

being and resilience. Severing ties impulsively or harshly can lead to isolation and regret.

Emotional intelligence plays a vital role here. By managing conflicts with empathy and seeking resolution rather than confrontation, individuals can preserve relationships and foster mutual respect. Research from the American Psychological Association highlights that individuals who maintain positive social connections experience lower stress levels and improved mental health.

When to Consider Letting Go

Not all bridges are worth preserving. Toxic relationships that harm your mental or physical health may require you to set firm boundaries or end contact. However, even in these situations, the principle of not burning bridges can guide the manner in which you disengage—favoring dignity and minimal hostility over bitterness.

Strategies to Avoid Burning Bridges

Understanding the importance of not burning bridges is one thing; implementing practices to uphold this principle is another. Below are actionable strategies to help maintain positive relationships across different spheres of life:

1. **Communicate Transparently and Respectfully:** Whether resigning from a job or ending a friendship, clear and respectful communication is paramount. Avoid blaming or accusatory language.
2. **Express Gratitude:** Acknowledging the positive aspects of a relationship, even if it is ending, can leave a lasting good impression.
3. **Offer Assistance for Transition:** In professional scenarios, offering to help with the transition process shows professionalism and care.
4. **Keep Future Opportunities in Mind:** Recognize that paths may cross again. Leaving on good terms keeps the door open for future collaboration or reconciliation.
5. **Avoid Emotional Impulses:** Take time to process emotions before making decisions that could sever relationships irreparably.

The Role of Digital Etiquette

In today's digital landscape, the risk of burning bridges extends to online interactions. Emails, social media posts, and instant messages are often permanent records. Practicing digital etiquette—such as thinking twice before sending critical communications or posting negative comments—can prevent misunderstandings and preserve reputations.

Case Studies Highlighting the Impact of Burning Bridges

Examining real-world examples can illuminate the tangible effects of this concept:

- **Professional Fallout:** A mid-level manager abruptly resigned from a major corporation with harsh criticism of the company on social media. This led to industry-wide awareness of his conduct, resulting in difficulties securing subsequent roles.
- **Positive Transition:** Another professional gracefully resigned, expressing gratitude and offering support for an orderly handover. Months later, the former employer recommended her for a coveted position elsewhere, demonstrating the value of not burning bridges.
- **Personal Reconciliation:** Two long-time friends experienced a falling out but chose to communicate openly and seek mutual understanding. Their relationship was restored stronger than before, illustrating that bridges can sometimes be repaired when handled thoughtfully.

When Bridges Are Burned: Mitigation and Repair

Despite best intentions, bridges can sometimes be burned. In such cases, damage control and repair become crucial. Strategies include:

- **Acknowledging Mistakes:** Taking responsibility for actions that caused harm is the first step toward rebuilding trust.
- **Offering Genuine Apologies:** An authentic apology can open the door to forgiveness and dialogue.
- **Demonstrating Changed Behavior:** Consistent efforts to improve and avoid repeating past mistakes are necessary to restore credibility.
- **Seeking Mediation:** In complex situations, involving a neutral third party can facilitate constructive communication.

Such measures underscore that while don't burn your bridges advocates prevention, it also acknowledges the possibility of repairing damaged relationships when approached with sincerity.

The principle of not burning bridges extends beyond mere politeness; it embodies a strategic approach to managing relationships that can impact both personal fulfillment and professional advancement. By appreciating the value of connections and exercising thoughtful communication, individuals safeguard future opportunities and foster environments of mutual respect. In a world where reputations are often built and dismantled in moments, the wisdom of preserving bridges

remains a timeless guide.

Don T Burn Your Bridges

don t burn your bridges: Die heutige Bedeutung oraler Traditionen / The Present-Day Importance of Oral Traditions Walther Heissig, Rüdiger Schott, 2013-03-09 Besondere Aufmerksamkeit verdient das Problem der Archivierung von Tonbandaufnahmen. Sie stellen oft die einzigen Dokumente dahinschwinden der mündlichen Überlieferungen dar; um ihre Erhaltung sollte man daher sehr besorgt sein, zumal Tonbandaufnahmen durch zahlreiche Einflüsse, nicht zuletzt durch die kosmische Strahlung, permanent gefährdet sind. Auf der Arbeitstagung fand unter den Teilnehmern ein Erfahrungsaustausch über die derzeit und in naher Zukunft am besten geeigneten Tonträger zur Archivierung von Tonbandaufnahmen statt. Die Probleme der Archivierung von mündlichen Überlieferungen gehen jedoch weit über die der Archivierung von Tonbandaufnahmen hinaus. Vor allem in Osteuropa gibt es außerordentlich umfangreiche Archive schriftlich aufgezeichneter mündlicher Traditionen. So begann beispielsweise die Sammelstätigkeit der Esten auf diesem Gebiet bereits im 17. Jahrhundert. Das Archiv der Estnischen Folklore umfaßte 1981 nicht weniger als 1.134.020 Seiten und 33.995 Stücke in einer Phonotheek. Das Material aus diesen Archivalsammlungen wurde bislang nur zu einem Bruchteil veröffentlicht und wissenschaftlich bearbeitet. Das Problem der Bewältigung solcher Stoffmassen, auch mit modernen Methoden der Daten- und Textverarbeitung, beschäftigt zahlreiche Wissenschaftler. 3. Zum Problem der Publikation von mündlichen Überlieferungen wurde die Frage erörtert, welche Auswahl aus dem in der Regel sehr umfangreichen Material nach welchen Kriterien getroffen werden sollte. Mit dem Normativer taucht die Frage nach populären bzw. wissenschaftlichen Editionen auf

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don t burn your bridges: The Reward of Risk Olivia Von Holt, 2023-12-01 □The Reward of Risk: Embracing Confidence In Your Career□ is more than a guide; it's a beacon of hope and a blueprint for those poised at the precipice of their professional journey, eager to leap into a career filled with purpose, growth, and achievement. This book is an essential companion for the ambitious young professional, a lighthouse casting a steady, inspiring beam into the often turbulent waters of career development. It's a narrative that intertwines the wisdom of seasoned experience with the dynamic energy of youth, offering not just advice but a pathway to a career that doesn't just exist but thrives and resonates in the modern, fast-paced economy. As you turn these pages, you'll embark on a journey into the heart of professional development, where each word serves as a stepping stone toward building a career that stands out and soars. This book is a treasure trove of strategic insights on confidently laying the foundation of your career edifice. It's about crafting an unforgettable personal brand, networking like a seasoned pro, and establishing robust, rewarding relationships that form the backbone of career success. Dive deep into the art of volunteer work, understanding how it's not just an act of community involvement but a cornerstone of personal and professional growth. Learn how volunteer experience can be a powerful tool in resume building, helping you stand out in the competitive job-hunting process. Discover the nuances of volunteer management and how leading non-profit organizations can hone your leadership skills and open doors to unexpected opportunities. Experience the thrill of stories where persistence meets opportunity, leading to triumphs that redefine one's career path. Each chapter celebrates the magic that unfolds when risk-taking is paired with relentless hard work. This book goes beyond narrating success; it's a hands-on guide to aspiring for it, offering practical advice on everything from acing nerve-wracking negotiations to turning setbacks into launchpads for your next big venture. Explore the realms of social entrepreneurship and corporate social responsibility, understanding how businesses can create a significant social impact while achieving their goals. Learn about the importance of skills development, volunteering, and networking, and finding the right mentor can lead to profound job satisfaction and professional growth. Internships, volunteering, and community engagement are presented as experiences and transformative journeys that shape your professional identity. Understand how these experiences contribute to a global understanding of the corporate market and prepare you for the challenges and rewards of a global career. Fundraising and social impact initiatives are dissected to reveal how they contribute to the larger picture of career development, teaching invaluable lessons in persistence, creativity, and strategic thinking. This book also delves into the intricacies of networking, demonstrating how building a web of professional relationships is crucial in today's interconnected world. The Reward of Risk is more than a book; it's a mentor, a motivator, and a manifesto for the ambitious, dedicated, and courageous. It's a cheerleader, echoing the crowd's roar as you step into the stadium of your career, ready to conquer and secure your place in the professional pantheon. This book doesn't just guide you; it walks with you, helping you to embrace confidence in your career and urging you to see every challenge as an opportunity and every risk as a potential reward.

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Vermont Glenn A. Knoblock, 2012-01-27 This book chronicles the development of metal truss and related bridges in Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont from the 1860s to 1940: the various types and their inventors, historical changes in the highway and railroad networks that caused these bridges to be built, the rise of state bridge-building agencies, developments in the field of civil engineering, and preservation trends. While many notable metal bridges of the past are discussed in the context of these topics, the book's main focus is a detailed account of the remaining historic bridges.

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don t burn your bridges: King of Innocence and Peace Lorenza Palomino, 2019-09-09 The passion of this book is immense because it shows you how to release the sufferings of Jesus Christ and your own swiftly. At your willingness to take a quantum leap to release Him from the crown of thorns is the most rapid way to see through the fog of darkness and into the clarity of lightness where you will see the world from which you are from. And you will look behind you and see the mirage of the world from which you instinctively know you do not belong and this is a fabulous awakening into breath of life! For the delight of the experience in writing it, was on a grandeur scale, in which you can never witness it alone. Working alongside of the Holy Spirit isn't all seriousness all the time, for He has a fabulous sense of humor! There were times I cried, frowned, smiled, giggled and laughed, but the ultimate amazement through the whole process was His love, light, tenderness, compassion, understanding, patience, peace, safety, unity and freedom He exhibited through His lead in what was to be written in regards to the brilliant act of The King of Innocence and Peace, The Guiltlessness In You. You have never seen anything so lovely until you see Jesus Christ smile! This book speaks of the simplicity of quantum leap where you will be witness to His lovely smile upon you. The intensity of the simplicity and power of quantum leap is beyond anything you could ever imagine until you travel through it with Me. Here, with My assistance, you will swiftly pull yourself out of your own sufferings in any situation and circumstance and the sufferings of others', no matter what form, throughout the whole world in peace through quantum leap. It is important to be patient and remain in calmness in any circumstance because this is the best and instant way holiness enters to help you through. Be willing to release Jesus Christ from the crown of thorns and be a witness as He rises wearing the crown of white lilies you offered Him, glistening golden with a blazing, amazing smile delighted you have chosen to release Him from His sufferings, your brothers' and your own. I hope you permit Me through this poetic truth to take you into spiritual vision and knowledge and we will go through the quantum leap process so tender you will not know you even traveled through it until you realize the spiritual sight given you. Here you will certainly see the open doors of bliss to love, joy, peace, freedom, union and safety. To be a witness to the release of Jesus' sufferings from the crown of thorns is to see Him gleam of joy that you have chosen to release Him, yourself and your brothers' from the thorns at every corner of the world. You will witness the risen Christ wearing the crown of white lilies with a lovely smile in beauty and sovereignty, which is the ultimate release into a holy wonder of reconciliation with Him. This is the process of quantum leap into Atonement where you instantly gain spiritual vision and knowledge of who you are, why things happen the way they do, where your real home is and you are never alone. And this is where insanity is restored to sanity and forgetfulness is reestablished to the remembrance of your Father in Heaven. Wouldn't you want to be released from the agonies of your insanity? It would be foolish not to want it! Holy Spirit God's Holy Commissioner (Your Guide, Teacher and Comforter)

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don t burn your bridges: *The CISO's Transformation* Raj Badhwar, 2021-10-19 The first section of this book addresses the evolution of CISO (chief information security officer) leadership, with the most mature CISOs combining strong business and technical leadership skills. CISOs can now add significant value when they possess an advanced understanding of cutting-edge security technologies to address the risks from the nearly universal operational dependence of enterprises on the cloud, the Internet, hybrid networks, and third-party technologies demonstrated in this book. In our new cyber threat-saturated world, CISOs have begun to show their market value. Wall Street is more likely to reward companies with good cybersecurity track records with higher stock valuations. To ensure that security is always a foremost concern in business decisions, CISOs should have a seat on corporate boards, and CISOs should be involved from beginning to end in the process of adopting enterprise technologies. The second and third sections of this book focus on building strong security teams, and exercising prudence in cybersecurity. CISOs can foster cultures of respect through careful consideration of the biases inherent in the socio-linguistic frameworks shaping our workplace language and through the cultivation of cyber exceptionalism. CISOs should leave no stone unturned in seeking out people with unique abilities, skills, and experience, and encourage career planning and development, in order to build and retain a strong talent pool. The lessons of the breach of physical security at the US Capitol, the hack back trend, and CISO legal liability stemming from network and data breaches all reveal the importance of good judgment and the necessity of taking proactive stances on preventative measures. This book will target security and IT engineers, administrators and developers, CIOs, CTOs, CISOs, and CFOs. Risk personnel, CROs, IT, security auditors and security researchers will also find this book useful.

don t burn your bridges: From Tongue, to Ear, to Heart Ramona Jones, 2006-11-01 From Tongue, To Ear, To Heart: So Says the Wise is a collection of over 300 of my mother's most memorable scriptures, adages and other old sayings. These seeds of wisdom, planted by her voice, continue to sprout enlightening thoughts that illuminate and guide my feet to the path on which the wise walk.

don t burn your bridges: The Next Step Kami Naraghi Evans, 2005 The book is divided into three key sections which allows the reader to learn from my experiences and apply this knowledge when needed. SECTION 1: RAISING YOUR AWARENESS SECTION 2: INTANGIBLE TOOLS SECTION 3: GO I wrote this book and so that recent college graduates and career changers, like yourself, will have a guide, even with all of the uncertainties you will likely face. My goal is to help teach you what to be aware of and what to look for in business and in life. -Kami Naraghi Evans Read a review of the The Next Step at www.startups.co.uk Kami Naraghi Evans £7.19 The book is

billed as 'A Guide to Professional Responsibility' and is a well-written, thought-provoking book. It's full of practical advice on how to realise your ideas, and reach success through your experiences. Naraghi Evans talks about her experiences and also gives other examples to highlight her points, including about how to overcome your fears. Article taken from the March 30 /PRNewswire/ Wednesday March 30, 08:01 AM Kami Evans Gives Graduates and Career Changers The Next Step LONDON, March 30 /PRNewswire/ -- Author and consultant, Kami Naraghi Evans (<http://www.kamievans.com>), announces the launch of her book, The Next Step. Billed as 'A Guide to Professional Responsibility' and available from 29 March, the book ADVERTISEMENT gives recent graduates and career changers a wealth of practical advice on how to realise their ideas and achieve success. In the thought-provoking book, Naraghi Evans - who has successfully worked in international technology sector management consulting and training since 1995 - shares her experiences and gives examples of how to overcome limitations and fears to achieve a 'go getting' lifestyle. The book gives readers advice on assessing their life, knowing their audience, investing in themselves, managing expectations, learning to fail, dealing with responsibility and authority, building influence, and putting plans into action - amongst other invaluable insights drawing from historical, economic, political, racial, ecological and medical concepts. Naraghi Evans, author, comments: 'I wrote The Next Step to provide those who are venturing into fresh careers with a guide that tackles all the uncertainties they're likely to face. My aim is to communicate what to look out for in business and in life.' She adds: 'The world can look rather limited to university leavers. However, anything is possible as long as you understand the rules and have a strategy to support your goals and reach for success.' The business portal, Startups (<http://www.startups.co.uk>), described The Next Step as 'a great book for recent graduates and career changers that need a little guidance once entering the unfamiliar and intimidating working world'. Naraghi Evans was interviewed at the NGR event on March 11th on which she gives her views about the transition from school to working life. The programme is to appear on ITV Meridian's in June 2005, Naraghi Evans next event will be at the Royal Aeronautical Society on May 5th at 12:30PM sponsored by KCWC. With a RRP of 7.99 GBP, The Next Step (ISBN 1412012686) can be bought on Amazon (<http://www.amazon.co.uk>) or from <http://books.global-investor.com/books/>. Notes to Editors: Kami Evans was born in New York City in 1970 to Persian parents. She received a BSc in Corporate Communications degree from Southern Connecticut State University in 1992. She then began a career in sales and business development before co-founding her first business, Newton Solutions, Inc., in 1997. The company provided interim managers and management consultants to Fortune 500 and FTSE (news) 100 companies and gave Kami a wealth of international business experience which she passes on to recent graduate

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