

Executive Summary

This short book is about *leadership and teaming in the context of innovation*. What is teaming? It's what happens when people collaborate—across boundaries of expertise, hierarchy, or geographic distance, to name a few. Teaming is a process of bringing together skills and ideas from disparate areas to produce something new—something that no one individual, or even a group in one area of expertise, could do alone. This is why teaming is so crucial to innovation. When teaming works, the results are more than the sum of the parts, and those who participated are inspired by what they have created and by what they have learned. In some ways, teaming to innovate is the most engaging and rewarding kind of teaming there is.

The goal of this book is to compile key insights for managers who want to lead teaming focused on innovation. I introduce new ideas and case studies from my recent research, and also draw heavily from the longer book, *Teaming*, to suggest a particular approach to leading innovation. *Teaming to Innovate* offers succinct advice and a set of memorable strategies that managers and leaders can easily keep in mind to drive innovation.

I provide a road map for *teaming to innovate*, with five essential recommendations:

1. Aim High
2. Team Up
3. Fail Well
4. Learn Fast
5. Repeat (Start all over again! Innovation takes a few iterations.)

Each of the first four recommendations is illustrated with real-life examples that show how teaming to innovate provides the spark that can clarify goals, nurture creativity, and enable synergy.