A Conversation with Peter Thiel

PayPal cofounder Peter Thiel will share highlights from his new book, Zero to One, and answer questions at a special event on Wednesday, October 15 from 5-6:30 p.m. at the Harper Center, Room 104. Space is limited and registration is required.

Legendary entrepreneur and investor Peter Thiel has scheduled a special stop on his global book tour to share his innovation philosophy with the University of Chicago community. In his new book Zero to One, he argues that:

"The next Bill Gates will not build an operating system. The next Larry Page or Sergey Brin won’t make a search engine. Copying others takes the world from 1 to n, adding more of something familiar. But when you do something new, you go from 0 to 1. Tomorrow’s champions will not win by competing ruthlessly in today’s marketplace; they will escape competition altogether, because their businesses will be unique. Zero to One presents at once an optimistic view of the future of progress in America and a new way of thinking about innovation: it starts by learning to ask the questions that lead you to find value in unexpected places."

The first 100 attendees to check-in will receive a free copy of his book. The book will also be available for purchase and there will be a book signing opportunity following the presentation. Snacks and refreshments will be served.

About Peter Thiel

Peter Thiel is best known for starting PayPal in 1998, which he led as CEO and took public in 2002, thus defining a new era of fast and secure online commerce. In 2004, he made the first outside investment in Facebook, where he serves as a director. The same year he launched Palantir Technologies, a software company that harnesses computers to empower human analysts in fields like national security and global finance. He has provided early funding for LinkedIn, Yelp, and dozens of other successful technology start-ups, many run by former colleagues who have been dubbed the "PayPal Mafia." He is a partner at Founders Fund, a Silicon Valley venture capital firm that has funded companies like SpaceX and Airbnb. He started the Thiel Fellowship, which ignited a national debate by encouraging young people to put learning before
schooling, and leads the Thiel Foundation, which works to advance technological progress and long-term thinking about the future.

“Zero To One is the first book any working or aspiring entrepreneur must read—period.”

—Marc Andreessen, cofounder of Netscape and venture capitalist at Andreessen Horowitz