Yahoo CEO Marissa Mayer on Work and Motherhood

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Description

At Fortune Magazine's 2012 "Most Powerful Women" dinner in Palo Alto, California, Yahoo CEO Melissa Mayer says she has found balance in her life by "ruthlessly prioritizing" God, family, and then Yahoo, citing legendary Green Bay Packers coach Vince Lombardi.

Keywords


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MATT LAUER, anchor:
Yahoo!’s new CEO, 37 year-old Marissa Mayer is one of the country’s most high-profile working moms. So how is she adjusting to her pressure-packed job and being a new mother? We got exclusive access to Mayer’s first interview about how she’s juggling it all. NBC’s Diana Alvear has more on that. Diana, good morning.
DIANA ALVEAR, reporting:
Matt, good morning. Just about two months after the birth of her son Macallister, Yahoo’s CEO Marissa Mayer gave her first and perhaps last interview for the foreseeable future about her life as a new CEO and mother-in-chief to her newborn at Fortune magazine’s Most Powerful Women dinner in Palo Alto, California. Interviewed by Fortune magazine in front of a crowd of invited guests, mostly women, Marissa Mayer focused on her two new roles
MARISSA MAYER (Fortune): I knew that the job would be hard, and I knew that the baby would be fun, right. And I-- and I -- and the thing that surprised me, and really puzzled me so, is that the job is really fun. Like Yahoo! is a really-- Yahoo! is a really fun place to work, and the baby’s been easy. The baby’s been way easier than everyone made it out to be.
ALVEAR: Mayer was just 37 years old in July when she was named CEO of Yahoo!, becoming the youngest CEO of a Fortune 500 company. She was also six months pregnant and announced that she only planned to take a week or two away from the office. In contrast, in a 2008 interview on Today, Mayer, then a Google executive, seemed to back longer maternity leave.
MAYER (file): And we basically said, you know, a baby of a Googler should have their parent at home for six weeks or three months, and it should be standard from that child’s point of view. And I think that means that ultimately it’s a really supportive environment for women, but it doesn’t necessarily mean special treatment for women, which is important.
ALVEAR: On September 30 th, came the birth announcement via Twitter from Mayer’s husband. And true to her word, two weeks later
the new mom tweeted she was back at work.
PATRICIA SELLERS (Fortune): What’s the most important thing that you do to get it all done?
MAYER: You have to ruthlessly prioritize, and I do -- and that’s one of the reasons I-- I haven’t been
talking and I’m going to go back to not talking.
ALVEAR: Although Mayer has only run Yahoo! since July, her management style is clearly clicking with
investors. The stock is up 18%. As a Wisconsin native, she cited legendary Green Bay Packers coach
Vince Lombardi for his drive for success and winning.
MAYER (FORTUNE): Vince Lombardi says, you know, in my life there are three things, God, family,
and the Green Bay Packers, in that order, right. And, you know, and I think that, you know, for me it’s
God, family, and Yahoo! in that order.
ALVEAR: And in a few hours, Mayer joins a group of CEOs for a meeting with President Obama about
the ongoing negotiations over the so-called fiscal cliff. And then she’ll have just enough time to get home
for her son’s two-month birthday on Friday. Matt.
LAUER: All right. Diana, thank you very much.