

## Short Bio

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Lina Echeverría spent twenty-five years inspiring creativity and accelerating innovation at Corning Incorporated, one of America's leading technology companies.

She has done the hardest and most urgent kind of job in the world of business—managing creative researchers and scientists to find and develop new technologies and new products that help consumers, while driving the business of one of the world's most renowned Fortune 500 technology companies.

Echeverría led teams of scientists and researchers at Corning that developed everything from the ceramic filters for car exhausts, glasses for TV screens, dental bridges and dinnerware. She was part of a culture that has provided the world with everything from the optical fiber that is the backbone of the Internet to the glass used as the tough but beautiful touchscreen for iPhones. She created an environment where scientists were both creative and productive, where teams balanced the ability to explore the edges of possibility, while also delivering critical new technology on time and on budget. Lina was known not just for her ability to effectively lead and manage (and keep happy) creative scientists, she was known for her ability to teach those skills to other leaders.

Her experience coalesces the understanding of the creative human drive—whether of scientists, artists or even chefs—with the need to guide and deliver the breakthroughs necessary for growth. From single research groups early in her management career to large directorates and laboratories, she has defined and led organizations in the delivery of products that touch our daily lives and underpin our technology-based economy. During her career, she managed teams and led organizations both in Corning, NY, and in Fontainebleau, France.

Echeverría began challenging convention early, as a student in her native Colombia. She was the first woman to seek admission to and graduate with a degree in engineering geology from the Universidad Nacional de Colombia at Medellín, opening the door to a new field for a generation of women in a school considered the most rigorous in the country in the area of engineering. She went on to earn a PhD in geology at Stanford, and then on as a postdoctoral fellow at the Carnegie Institution and a researcher at the Max Planck Institut in Germany, conducting field research on the island of Gorgona, site of Colombia's highest security prison. She conducted this research while living in tropical rain forest conditions and carrying her 6-month-old baby on her back.

After winning a fight against breast cancer, Lina stepped aside from the corporate world to focus on her passions: helping create cultures of innovation inside companies and organizations and creating wearable textile art in her studio.