

PhD Non-Academic Careers and Job Search

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Who are the folks in our neighborhood?

How many of you are:

- Undergraduates
- MSc students
- PhD students
- Others ?

Where Laura Works



IBM Almaden Research Center

“Famous for our science and vital to IBM”

“For more than sixty years, IBM Research has been the innovation engine of the IBM corporation. From helping the Apollo space missions land on the moon to the discovery of fractals; from the technology behind laser eye surgery to a question answering computer called Watson now being applied to health care, IBM Research continues to define the future of technology.”

- 3000 researchers in 12 worldwide labs
- Almaden is the center of expertise in data and storage



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Where Rita Works



“Intel Labs, the research arm of Intel Corporation, is inventing tomorrow's technology to make our lives easier, more enjoyable and more productive. We fuel Intel's growth and deliver breakthrough technologies that bring the benefits of the ongoing digital revolution to everyone.”

- One of the largest industry labs in the world, lots of work happening in almost anything you can imagine
- Lots of smart people, and big ideas



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Where Deb works

Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory

“Bringing Science Solutions to the World”

- US Dept. of Energy National Laboratory
- Conducting unclassified research across a wide range of scientific disciplines
- Computational Research Division
CS research that enables science breakthroughs

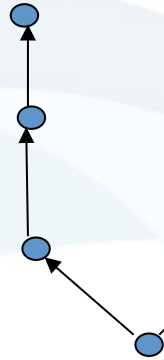


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Laura's 6I's: Think *Impact*

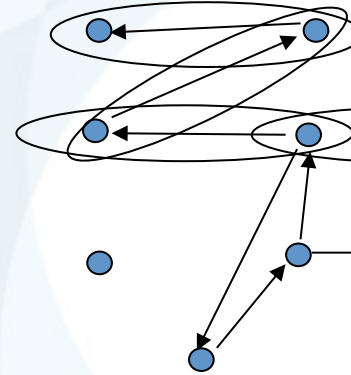
Technical



Management



Technical



Management

Business

A career is a journey; it can take many paths
To progress in your career, you need to have impact

*Impact:

Create quantifiable improvements; increase customer satisfaction and/or revenue
Change something! (in a positive way 😊)

Innovate, Initiate, Implement, Influence, Identity, IMPACT

The scope increases as you rise through the ranks!



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Rita: “I Wish I Knew”

- Industry does lots of cool stuff, you just (mostly) don't hear about it (get an internship)
- You can innovate without writing papers: think patents, think impact, think touching people's lives
- Think of your career as your own startup
- Don't forget about life, think about cities that you would like to live in



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Deb's Networking Advice . . .

- Enjoy what you do
(Do a good job of whatever you work on)
- Work with people you like, build collaborations
(Treat everyone like they might be your next boss)
- Pay attention to how things work and what is typical
(resources, approvals, promotions, projects, etc)
- Learn from your failures
(Failures can lead to a bigger success than was possible before)
- Don't be afraid to ask for advice
(It makes you look smart)

Have patience – your career is long



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Industry to Academia

Academia	Industry (other than Research)	National Lab or Industrial Research
Active publishing in top tier conferences	Must build “real” systems	Mix of building “real” systems and publishing
Active collaborations with academia	Up-to-date technical skills	Active collaborations with labs and academia
Establish visibility in research community	Understand business roadmaps	Address agency or company mission critical problems
“Soft” money	“Hard” money	“Soft” and “hard” money



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Becoming a Technical Leader

- Act like one: Show initiative & vision.
- Be trustworthy
 - Follow through on commitments in a timely fashion.
 - Treat people fairly and with respect.
- Demonstrate ability to work with others
- Let people know you are interested
- Work to acquire qualifications
- Find a mentor to help



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Backup Questions

- Do internships matter?
- Can I publish papers?
- How do you find and get on projects?
- How are projects started?
- What is the interview process like?
- How important is teamwork versus individual work in your environment?
- What is the career path of a researcher in your organization?
- Is it possible to switch during your career: Industry/ Academia/National Laboratory/Funding Agency/Non-Profit?



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