

Industry + Academia

Raja Kushalnagar
Ayanna Howard



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Computing Research Association
Widening Participation

About Raja Kushalnagar, J.D., LL.M, Ph.D.

NOW



Director, Information Technology
Gallaudet University
4 years



BEFORE



Assistant Professor
Rochester Institute of Technology
6 years



MTS, Researcher
Bell Laboratories
3 years

EDUCATIO



PhD, CS and LL.M.
University of Houston



BS, Applied Physics
Angelo State University

CURRENT ROLE

Teach CS courses
Manage grant-funded research
Publish peer-review papers

FUN



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Ayanna Howard

- Chair, School of Interactive Computing (IC)
- Linda J. and Mark C. Smith Endowed Professor
- CTO/Founder, Zyrobotics
- Previous: NASA Robotics Researcher
- Research: Human-Robot Interaction and AI



No. 19: Zyrobotics' Ayanna Howard

Ayanna Howard, Founder & Chief Technology Officer, Zyrobotics.

Howard is a professor at Georgia Tech specializing in the intersection of machine learning and robotics,



College of Computing Selects Ayanna Howard to Lead School of Interactive Computing

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Following a national search, the Georgia Tech College of Computing has selected **Ayanna Howard**, professor and Linda J. and Mark C. Smith Chair in the School of Electrical and Computer Engineering (ECE) to chair its School of Interactive Computing.

Howard, who is also associate chair for faculty development in ECE, will succeed Professor **Annie Anton**, who served in the role from 2012-17. Anton finished her five-year term in June 2017 and remains a professor within the school. Professor **Amy Bruckman**



@robotsmarts



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Industry

- Open-ended research: part of a research team
- Directed research: part of a product team
- Research engineering
- Product software engineering
- Product/Project Management
- Design
- Founder



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Academia

- Research-oriented Professor
 - Tenure vs non-tenure track
- Teaching-oriented Professor
 - PUIs
 - Non-tenure track (lecturer)
- Administration (some “Dean” type of positions are for recent PhD grads)
- Research scientist/staff
- Public vs private university



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Turn and Talk to Your Neighbor

What is your plan?

Industry vs Academia vs Undecided?

Why?

How do you enjoy spending your time?

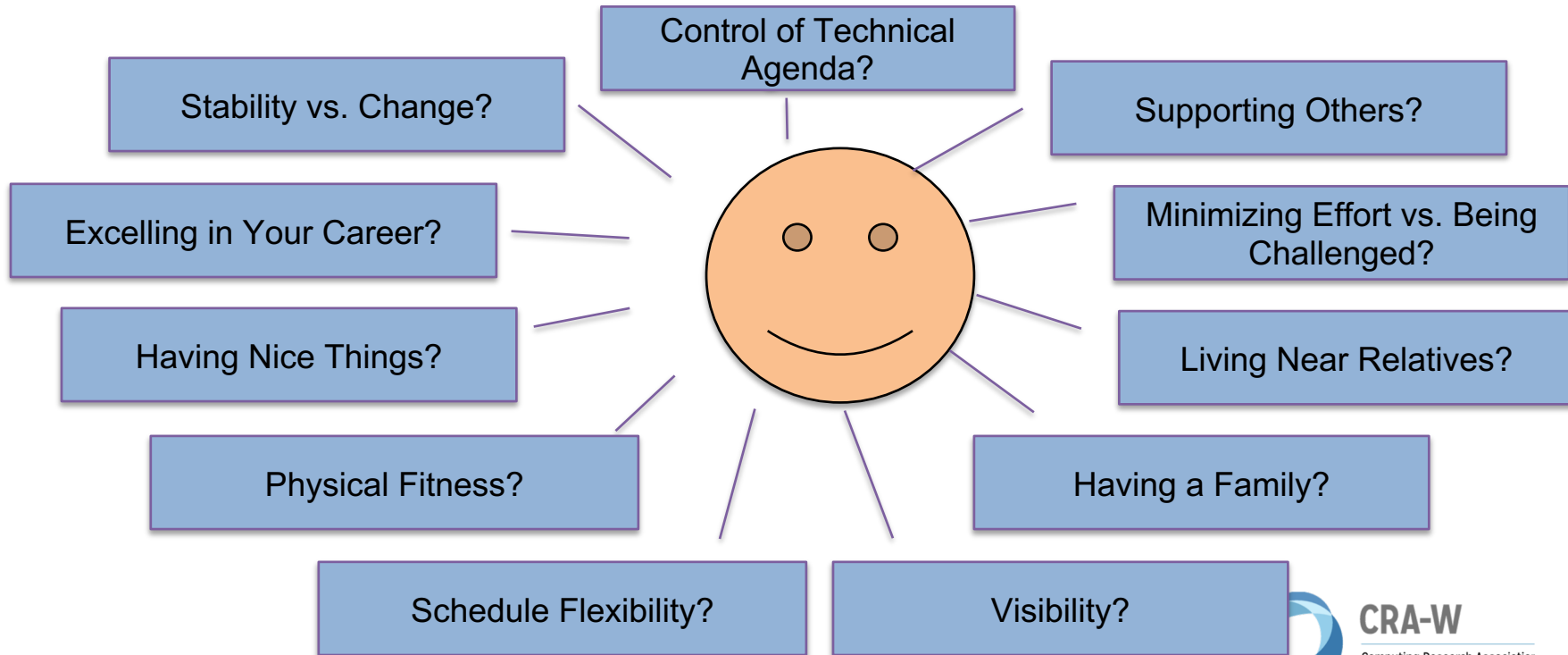


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Women

What is Important to You?

Must-haves vs. Nice-to-haves?



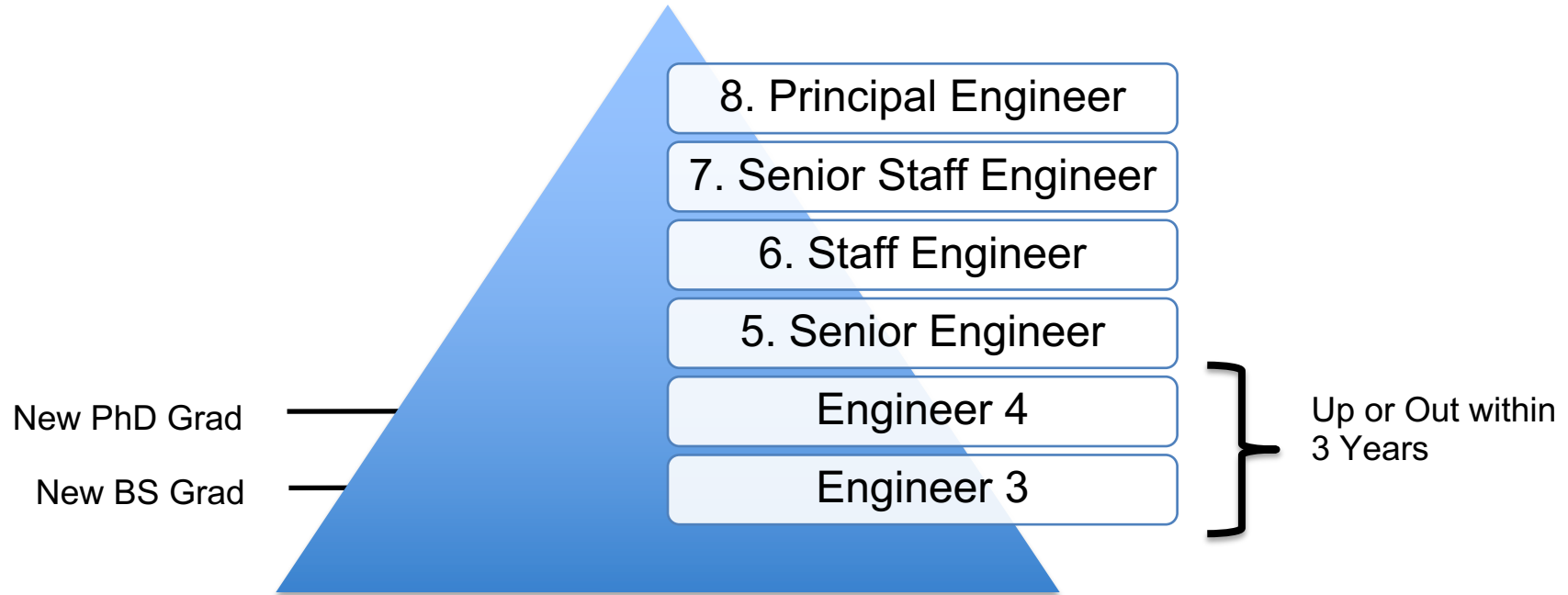
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Does What You're Doing Align With What's Important to You?

- What you value most could change over time
- Absolutely no one is in your exact situation
- A PhD gives you options
- Be true to yourself and your values
- Don't be afraid to course correct

The Engineering Ladder



Implications: Pay, Expectations
Check levels.fyi

Moving Between Industry and Academia

From University to Industry

- Must build products
- Establish visibility and knowledge in industry
- Need to pass a technical interview (coding, complexity)

From Industry to University

- Must continue publishing
- Establish visibility and reputation in research community
- Need to pass an academic interview (presentation, strong publication record)

All Choices are Valid!

- Do what you love
- If you don't love what you're doing, do something else
- A PhD gives you that option
- Take ownership of what you do now and what you want to do next

Q&A



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