THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

OFFICE OF RESEARCH

Ohio State ADVANCE
REACH for Commercialization™

REACH is a year-round resource and network for women interested in amplifying the impact of their research by exploring technology transfer, commercialization and entrepreneurship.

Adventures of an Academic-Entrepreneur: a Roboticist's Tale
Friday, May 21, 2021
Noon – 1 p.m.
Via Zoom; please contact Katie Musson,
musson.7@osu.edu for registration details

Featured Speaker: Ayanna Howard, PhD
Dean, College of Engineering, The Ohio State University

ABOUT OUR SPEAKER:

Dr. Ayanna Howard is the Dean for the College of Engineering at The Ohio State University. Previously, she was the Linda J. and Mark C. Smith Professor in Bioengineering and Chair of the School of Interactive Computing at the Georgia Institute of Technology. She also held a faculty appointment in the School of Electrical and Computer Engineering and currently serves on the Board of Directors for the Partnership on AI and Autodesk.

Prior to Georgia Tech, Dr. Howard was at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory where she held the title of Senior Robotics Researcher and Deputy Manager in the Office of the Chief Scientist. Her research encompasses advancements in artificial intelligence (AI), assistive technologies, and robotics, and has resulted in over 250 peer-reviewed publications. At NASA, she worked on designing advanced technologies for future Mars rover missions. Now, she works on projects ranging from healthcare robots to developing methods to mitigate bias and trust in AI. In 2013, she founded Zyrobotics, an education technology startup, which designs AI-powered STEM tools and learning games for early childhood education. She has also served as the Associate Director of Research for the Institute for Robotics and Intelligent Machines, Chair of the Robotics Ph.D. program, and the Associate Chair for Faculty Development in ECE at Georgia Tech.

To date, Dr. Howard's unique accomplishments have been highlighted through a number of awards and articles, including highlights in *Vanity Fair, USA Today, Upscale, Black Enterprise*, and *TIME Magazine*, as well as being recognized as one of the 23 most powerful women engineers in the world by *Business Insider* and one of the Top 50 U.S. Women in Tech by *Forbes*. She regularly advises on issues concerning robotics, AI, and workforce development, including functioning as an appointed member of the Georgia State Workforce Development Board and an AI advisor on the YouTube *Future of AI* documentary series produced by Robert Downey Jr.

Dr. Howard is a frequent speaker and expert source for venues such as CNN and NPR. She regularly gives invited seminars at venues such as the Smithsonian Design Museum, Science Museum of London, Detroit Science Museum, and the National Security Agency. Her research leadership has also been externally recognized through her role as a U.S. Embassy Speaker Specialist and her Congressional Testimony on Innovation, just to name a few.

The mission of Ohio State ADVANCE is to increase the representation, advancement and recruitment of women faculty in the academic STEMM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics and Medicine) careers, and contribute to the development and success of global research leaders.