An annual workshop for Ph.D.-level women scientists and engineers already in industry and interested in transitioning to academic faculty positions.

Goals of On-Ramps:
- Expand the slate of potential women faculty candidates by tapping into Ph.D.-level women outside academia
- Provide practical tools to women interested in making the transition
- Create a support network for women looking for positions in academia
- Help faculty search committees connect with On-Ramps participants

Workshop Topics:
- Why academia is a rewarding place to work
- Building a research program building a teaching program
- Faculty life at different institutions
- Transforming skills and strengths to the academic environment
- Interdisciplinary research
- The interview process

Previous Workshops
- October 2009 with kickoff speaker Dr. Martha Pollack, University of Michigan
- May 2011 with kickoff speaker Dr. Cherry Murray, Harvard University

Next Workshop
October 14-16, 2012
Seattle, Washington
Featuring Dr. Maria Klawe, President, Harvey Mudd College and on-ramp from IBM Research

Workshop Feedback, 2009 and 2011
Participant feedback immediately following workshops

Most Valuable Themes:
- Applying to academic jobs
- Preparation for academic job interviews
- Negotiating a startup package
- Preparation for first years in academia
- Establishment of peer networks

When asked, 98% (48/49) of workshop participants would recommend On-Ramps to others. The other participant said “maybe.”

On-Ramps Participants by Discipline, 2009-2011

Post-Workshop Participant Support
- Posting positions to the On-Ramps site and RSS feeds
- Strengthens connections and networking through a message-board for On-Ramps participants and speakers to provide support and advice
- Build participants database

Academic Positions Held by Participants’ Confidence in Securing an Academic Position

90
83%
70
60
50
40
30
20
10
0

Percent of participants who “Strongly Agree” or “Somewhat Agree” with the statement: “I have a good understanding of how to secure an academic faculty position.”

2009 On-Ramps Participants

On-Ramps helped me think less traditionally about the academic path and pursue temporary opportunities that would both give me experience and help me define what I am looking for.”

~ 2011 participant

Success Stories from On-Ramps into Academia

Success Stories

Cecilia Aragon, PhD
Associate Professor
Human-Centered Design & Engineering
University of Washington

Tina Eliassi-Rad, PhD
Assistant Professor
Computer Science & Engineering
Rutgers University

Lekelia Jenkins, PhD
Assistant Professor
Marine and Environmental Affairs
University of Washington

Lisa Julian, PhD
Assistant Professor
Department of Chemistry
University of Colorado Denver

Debra Wallace, PhD
Assistant Professor
Department of Physics and Astronomy
University of South Carolina Beaufort

Academic Positions Held by 2009 Participants

Adjunct Professor
Assistant Professor
Associate Professor
Postdoctoral Fellow
Postdoctoral Researcher

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