

Generations of STEM: Ayanna Howard

Roboticist

As a young girl watching *The Bionic Woman*, Ayanna dreamed of making robots.

She earned a bachelor's degree in Engineering at Brown University and began working for NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory in 1993. During her time working at NASA, she also attended school and earned masters and doctorate degrees in

electrical engineering. She had many roles at NASA, including leading a team of engineers working on early Mars rovers. Her diverse interests in robotics have also led her to develop the *SnoMote*, a robot that explored the impact of global warming in Antarctica and *Zyrobotics*, which assisted children with special needs.

Ayanna later moved into academia, rising from associate professor at Georgia State to Chair of the School of Interactive Computing in the College of Computing. She also founded the HumAnS Lab at Georgia Tech, which focuses on building robots inspired by humans. Most recently, Howard became the Dean of the College of Engineering at Ohio State. Her position will allow her to continue her advocacy for diversity in the engineering fields. Ayanna has been named by Business Insider as one of the 23 most powerful women engineers and received numerous awards for her work.



Image Source: [Wikipedia / Rob Felt](#) Information Sources: [The Ohio State University](#), [Georgia Tech](#), [The Robot Report](#)