

On-Ramps into Academia



Next Workshop: Spring 2011

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

www.engr.washington.edu/onramp



Wooing women faculty in STEM from one university to another is, nationally, a zero-sum game. There is a mostly-untapped pool of Ph.D.-level women scientists and engineers in industry and research laboratories, and with the proper mix of information, networking, and support, these women could become very successful professors. The goal of this project is to increase the pool of women faculty available to all universities by providing professional development to Ph.D.-level women in industry or research laboratories.

UWADVANCE
University of Washington Center for Institutional Change



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“Really fantastic, well-organized workshop. Now I feel much more confident about seriously pursuing an academic career.” - 2009 On-Ramps Participant

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

Post-Workshop Participant Support

- Connect search committees with participants by posting positions to the On-Ramps site and RSS feeds
- Strengthen connections and mentoring through a message-board for On-Ramps participants and speakers to provide support and advice
- Build participant database, modeled after Rice’s successful “Negotiating the Ideal Faculty Position” program

And beyond....

- Two workshops planned for the future, one focused on transitioning to academic leadership positions
- **Next workshop: Spring 2011**

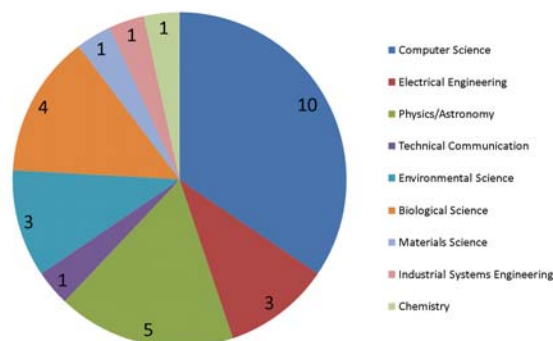
Inaugural Workshop • October 18-20, 2009 in Seattle, Washington
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Speakers at 2009 On-Ramps Workshop

- The majority of speakers have worked in industry during their careers and transitioned into academia
- Speakers represent a large variety of institutions (public/private, large/small, research/teaching) and address the different hiring strategies and environments of each.

When asked, **97%** (28/29) of 2009 workshop participants would recommend On-Ramps to others. The other participant said “maybe.”

2009 On-Ramps Participants by Discipline



Topics from the 2009 On-Ramps Workshop

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