Preparing for Academic Careers and Developing Marketable Skills in Graduate School

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- My Background
- Strategies for Academic Career Preparation
- How to Develop Marketable Skills in Grad School
My Background

- Native of Arkansas
- Industrial Engineering
  - Bachelor and Master of Science – Georgia Tech
  - PhD – Texas A&M University
- Current Job – Associate Director for the Texas A&M University System Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation (TAMUS LSAMP)
What is LSAMP?

- Louis Stokes Alliances for Minority Participation (LSAMP)
  - Began in early 1990s by National Science Foundation (NSF)
  - Over 40 Alliances currently
    - Over 600 campuses nationwide
    - Industry; research labs; local, state, and federal agencies
- Enrich learning experience for underrepresented minority (URM) students in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM)
LSAMP Alliances

Image source: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L9oyoX_dGA
Strategies for Academic Career Preparation

- Think of Your End Goals
  - Research; Teaching; Industry

- Be Strategic in Your Program
  - Tailor class assignments toward your research

- Seek Mentors and Social Network
  - Faculty and peers
  - Stress management

- Take Advantage of Resources
  - Conference registration and travel
  - Professional development opportunities
  - Instructor of record
Developing Marketable Skills

- Embrace Technology
  - Computer programming
  - Software tools and packages used in industry

- Hone Leadership Skills
  - Student organizations

- Sharpen Communication Skills
  - Presentations
  - Writing
Contact Information

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