

Exhibit

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George Bekey, USC Viterbi professor emeritus, who chaired her dissertation committee, said, "Ayanna is a brilliant, creative, and hardworking person. She is a complex."

"When I pitched this topic to Ayanna, she was very enthusiastic, even though it was a very difficult, original, and creative. She designed the experiments to test the robot's ability to interact with humans in a natural and intuitive way."

"I could see from the very beginning that she was a unique and very talented person."

USC Viterbi Professor Timothy Pinkston, who also served on her dissertation committee, said, "Ayanna has been a great mentor and a great collaborator. She has brought her ideas to robotics research and development, but also to the broader effort of making technology more inclusive and accessible to all."

"She was always very confident in her work," Pinkston said. "She continues to inspire me and my students. But it is also fitting that she is being recognized for expanding our understanding of the capabilities of robots and for her work on minorities."

In 2005, she joined the School of Electrical and Computer Engineering at the University of California, Berkeley, and founded the Human-Automation Systems Laboratory.

"I get the most satisfaction when a student I've mentored becomes interested in robotics and is successful at it," said Howard.

On top of her accomplishments, her work has been documented in several publications.



Ayanna Howard next to the SmartNav, her prototype for autonomous Mars rovers, on a set of the Red Planet at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in California. Photo/ Michael Grecco for TIME

In 2003, the *MIT Technology Review* named her one of the 100 most influential people in the world under the age of 35. In 2008, Howard received the *TIME* *Machines* award. In 2008, Howard received the *TIME* *Machines* award, designed to study the impact of technology on society.

"I'm not at all surprised that she is an outstanding engineer and worker. Her endeavors."

Howard has also been a guest speaker at many conferences, highlighting the growing importance of robotics in our lives.

"Robotics will be as pervasive as the Internet 30 years from now, they will be in our homes, our grocery stores, our workplaces. Robots will work for us."

Howard won't rest on her laurels. She is committed to the empowering discipline of our field.

"There's still a lot more that can be done."

