

## Dr. Ayanna Howard: Tech Trailblazer & STEM Advocate

Imagine working with robots that explore Mars! That's part of what Dr. Ayanna Howard has done in her amazing career. She's a top roboticist and a passionate advocate for getting more young people, especially girls and minorities, into STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math).

Dr. Howard's love for robots started when she was young, inspired by TV shows and movies. She followed her passion, earning a degree in Electrical Engineering from Brown University and a Ph.D. from the University of Southern California. At NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory, she helped develop robots and intelligent systems for space missions, including the famous Mars Rover.

But Dr. Howard didn't stop there. She wanted to make a difference closer to home, too. In 2013, she started Zyrobotics, a company that creates fun and educational tech tools for kids, especially those with disabilities. Her goal? To make learning about science and technology exciting and accessible for everyone.

Today, Dr. Howard is the Dean of the College of Engineering at Ohio State University. She's received many awards, like being named one of Forbes' Top 50 Women in Tech. But what she's most proud of is her work to bring more diversity into STEM. She speaks at schools and events, encouraging young people to dream big and pursue careers in science and tech.

Dr. Ayanna Howard's story shows that with curiosity, hard work, and a desire to help others, you can achieve great things and inspire the next generation of innovators.

