

Dr. Ayodele Thomas

Program Director, Greene Scholars Program

Dr. Ayodele Thomas first decided that she wanted to pursue electrical engineering as a 5th grader who was inspired by her favorite aunt in Lexington, Ky. She and her four brothers followed in that path to pursue engineering degrees.

Ayodele earned her Bachelor's of Electrical Engineering from the Georgia Institute of Technology, graduating with Highest Honors. She received her M.S. and Ph.D. in Electrical Engineering from Stanford University as a National Science Foundation and Stanford Graduate Fellow, becoming in 2005 the first Black woman at Stanford to receive a Ph.D. in electrical engineering. Since her college days serving on the national board for the National Society of Black Engineers, Ayodele's passion has been increasing the undergraduate pipelines for minority students in the sciences and engineering and working to increase minority representation in doctoral education and the professoriate.

Since 2005 Ayodele has worked for the Stanford University School of Humanities and Sciences and currently serves as the Assistant Dean for Diversity Programs, Data and & Technology. In her current role, Ayodele provides leadership for initiatives which increase the diversity of the graduate student population. She also manages graduate fellowships, technology initiatives, and student-related data and analysis. Furthermore, as a Lecturer for more than ten years, Ayodele has taught a self-designed course for 1st year doctoral students focusing on academic, psychosocial, financial and career issues. In addition, she serves the University as the founding Chairperson of the Graduate Diversity Staff Council, a member of the Vice Provost for Graduate Education Diversity Steering Committee, a Pre-Major Advisor focused on diversity in STEM, and a leadership coach for the Stanford Manager Academy.

Ayodele has served since 2008 on the Board of Directors for the Stephanie Brown Cadet Memorial Foundation which awards college scholarships to Bay Area high school seniors who have excelled in volunteerism. She served as a parent volunteer for the CAAAE Greene Scholars Program for two years before becoming the Program Director in July 2015. Ayodele has used her faith along with her dedication to excellence and education to help transform organizations through the strategic use of technology and development of administrative infrastructures.