

Career Panel Discussion: Finding First Faculty Position

Michelle Dawson

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My Faculty Search Timeline

May	'Meet Faculty Candidates' Abstract
Oct	Ford Talk
Oct	JHU advertised my faculty search
Nov 3-5	AIChE Meeting
Nov 8-20	Requests for my application
Nov 25-30	Applications submitted
Nov 26	Requests for reference letters
Dec	Invitations for interviews
Jan 15	JHU mock interview
1/21-3/7	First interviews
3/14-5/6	Second interviews
April - May	Offers

Benefits of Following the Chemical Engineering Path to Faculty Search

- AIChE Meeting
 - ‘meet the faculty candidates’ poster session
 - university-hosted parties
 - lots of opportunities to meet the search chairs
 - submit abstract early!!
- Outcome from AIChE Meeting
 - Numerous invitations to submit applications w/ follow-up phone calls and emails
 - 9 applications submitted to chairs that I met at AIChE, 9 invitations for interviews
 - Cornell, Tulane, U MD, U Iowa, U KY, OSU, CSU, Vanderbilt, U Houston

Benefits of Following the Chemical Engineering Path to Faculty Search

- Approval of chemical engineering colleagues
 - Chair advertised my application and AIChE poster
 - My PhD advisor gave my thesis talk
 - Multiple presentations - great attendance
- Deadlines
- More convenient for universities

Deciding Where to Send My Application

- National faculty search
 - AIChE meeting
 - Online search for top engineering universities
 - Followed search to individual university websites
 - Tenure-track faculty position available?
 - Search chair / address / info for letters
 - Method of submission / deadline
 - 27 universities targeted
 - More invitations than I could accept / burden for letter writers

Application Materials

- Letters - personalized and professional
- CV
- References - inform your letter writers early
- Research Plan - 5 page grant proposal
- Teaching Plan - 1-2 pages

- Application will be distributed to everyone you meet on your interview - should be excellent!

University Interviews

- Ranked universities and grouped them in tiers
- 10 Universities
 - Stanford, Tulane, Vanderbilt, U Tenn, Ohio State, Georgia Tech, Cornell, Penn State, Northwestern, Colorado State
- 11 First Interviews
- 4 Second Interviews
- 3 Offers
 - OSU - unbelievable offer
 - GIT - Top tier
 - Cornell - Top tier
- Georgia Tech seemed like the best fit for me

Future Research Presentation

- Your vision for unique research lab
 - Clear differences from PhD/postdoc labs
 - Common question - what will students from your lab know?
- Influences in developing new research area
 - Differences between my research ideas and my mentors
 - Common questions - how will you differentiate yourself from your advisors? Will you compete with your advisor?
- Summary of my preliminary data and others published data
 - Common questions - Can you do these studies? What will the most significant contribution to the field be? Who will you be competing with?
- Present 2-3 research projects, overall hypotheses for each project, specific PhD projects, and technology needs
- Funding Sources
- Teaching Interests

Equipment List

- May be requested at end of first interview
- List of equipment and cost estimate
- Space requirements
- Number of student / tech / postdoc years
- Discretionary funds
- Proposed starting date