

CAREERS IN ROBOTICS & ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE



Shree Dandekar is the Senior Vice President/Software CTO with Flex. Flex delivers innovative design, engineering, manufacturing, real-time supply chain insight and logistics services to companies of all sizes in various industries and end-markets. As Senior Vice President/Software CTO, Shree is responsible for the software strategy at Flex. In his role he focusses on driving value added software solutions for Flex's customers. Shree received an MS in MIS from Texas Tech University, an MS in Computer Science from Texas State University, San Marcos, and an MBA from The University of Texas at Austin.



Leah Hoover is a Clinical Development Engineer with Intuitive Surgical. Intuitive, maker of the da Vinci® Surgical System, is a pioneer in the field of minimally invasive robotic-assisted surgical platforms. Intuitive has dedicated over two decades to developing robotic products designed to improve patient outcomes through minimally invasive surgery. As a Clinical Development Engineer at Intuitive, Leah's role involves translating user and clinical needs into design inputs. Her team is responsible for conducting clinical research and evaluating potential robotics solutions across a variety of medical applications to support new product development. Leah received both a BS and MS in Biomedical Engineering from Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo.



Dr. Ryan Jenkins is an Assistant Professor of Philosophy at Cal Poly. Ryan teaches classes in ethics, specifically focusing on technology ethics and military technologies. Also the Director of Ethics & Policy with WhiteFox Defense, Ryan liaises with government and industry to shape and support reasonable policies to regulate drones, to ensure their safe operation while unlocking their benefits for society. In addition, Ryan is a Senior Associate with Principia Advisory, the leading consultancy on organizational ethics and conduct risk. As a Senior Associate, he provides expertise in moral philosophy to major corporations struggling with how to incorporate ethics, not just compliance with the law, into their business practices. Ryan received his PhD in Philosophy from The University of Colorado, Boulder.



Alex McClure is the Chief Product Officer at Unanimous AI, developing Swarm AI technology that amplifies human intelligence, empowering groups to optimize their collective knowledge, wisdom, and intuition by forming real-time AI systems. Alex describes himself as blessed to be serving a team of some of the most talented software engineers on the Central Coast. Together, they are creating the future of how humans maintain their decision-making relevancy in an AI world. Alex received his BS in Computer Science and Engineering from The University of California, San Diego.



Bob Somers is a Senior Software Engineer with Zoox, an innovative company building what comes after the car: a robot that is designed from the ground up for autonomous ride sharing in dense urban environments. As a Senior Software Engineer, Bob works on the autonomous driving software that moves their robots through San Francisco every day. Since starting Zoox as the first paid employee, he has also helped build the engineering and safety culture while growing the company to over 800 people. Bob graduated from Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo with a BS in Computer Engineering and an MS in Computer Science.

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Ways To Get Involved On Campus

- Cal Poly Robotics Club
- Cal Poly Society of Women Engineers (SWE) Robotics Committee
- Computer Engineering Society
- White Hat Club
- Women Involved with Software and Hardware (WISH)

For more resources & links, visit Career Services Emerging Markets Webpage at careerservices.calpoly.edu/explore-services/emerging-markets

Possible Networking Questions

1. How do you recommend getting experience in your field as a student? What skills and knowledge would be helpful to have?
2. What did you expect working in this field to look like and how does your reality differ from your expectations?
3. Looking back to when you were a student, what advice would you give yourself starting this journey? Would you do anything differently?
4. In your opinion, what are current trends and needs facing your specific industry?
5. I'm really interested in robotics/AI but I'm also really interested in _____. Do you know of any way those two worlds connect?

**Use this time intentionally to be genuine with your questions! What do you *really* want to know? If you think of questions for a specific panelist during the panel discussion, write them here:
