



CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY  
**FULLERTON**<sup>™</sup>



CENTER FOR  
COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH  
& PROTOTYPE DEVELOPMENT

**College of Engineering and Computer Science (ECS)  
Center for Collaborative Research & Prototype Development  
(CCRPD)**

**Fall 2020 – Workshop Series**

**Pathway to Graduate School**

**Monday, November 9<sup>th</sup>, 2020**

# Agenda

- Welcome
- Overview of Graduate Education
- ECS Graduate Programs
- CSUF Graduate Program Application Process
- ECS Graduate Alumni Share Their Experience
- Department/Program-wise Breakout Sessions
- Closing Remarks

# CCRPD at ECS



CENTER FOR  
COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH  
& PROTOTYPE DEVELOPMENT

- Center for Collaborative Research and Prototype Development (CCRPD)
- **Mission:** To provide a portal for directed engineering research and design projects, in collaboration with industry partners
- CCRPD is dedicated to **helping ECS faculty members and students** to achieve their collaborative research and educational goals

## Center Co-Directors

**Kenneth John Faller II, Ph.D.**  
Associate Professor, Computer Engineering  
Program

**Sagil James, Ph.D.**  
Assistant Professor, Department of Mechanical  
Engineering

# What is Graduate School?

- A school that awards **advanced academic degrees** (master's and doctoral degrees)
  - Commonly require that students have earned a bachelor's degree at an accredited institution
- The term 'graduate school' is typical in the United States it doesn't necessarily mean that it is a separate school



# Graduate School as an Option



# Planning for Graduate School

- Selecting a program
- Applying to the program
- Finding funding/ Financial support
- Making visits to the program
- Explore potential graduate faculty advisor

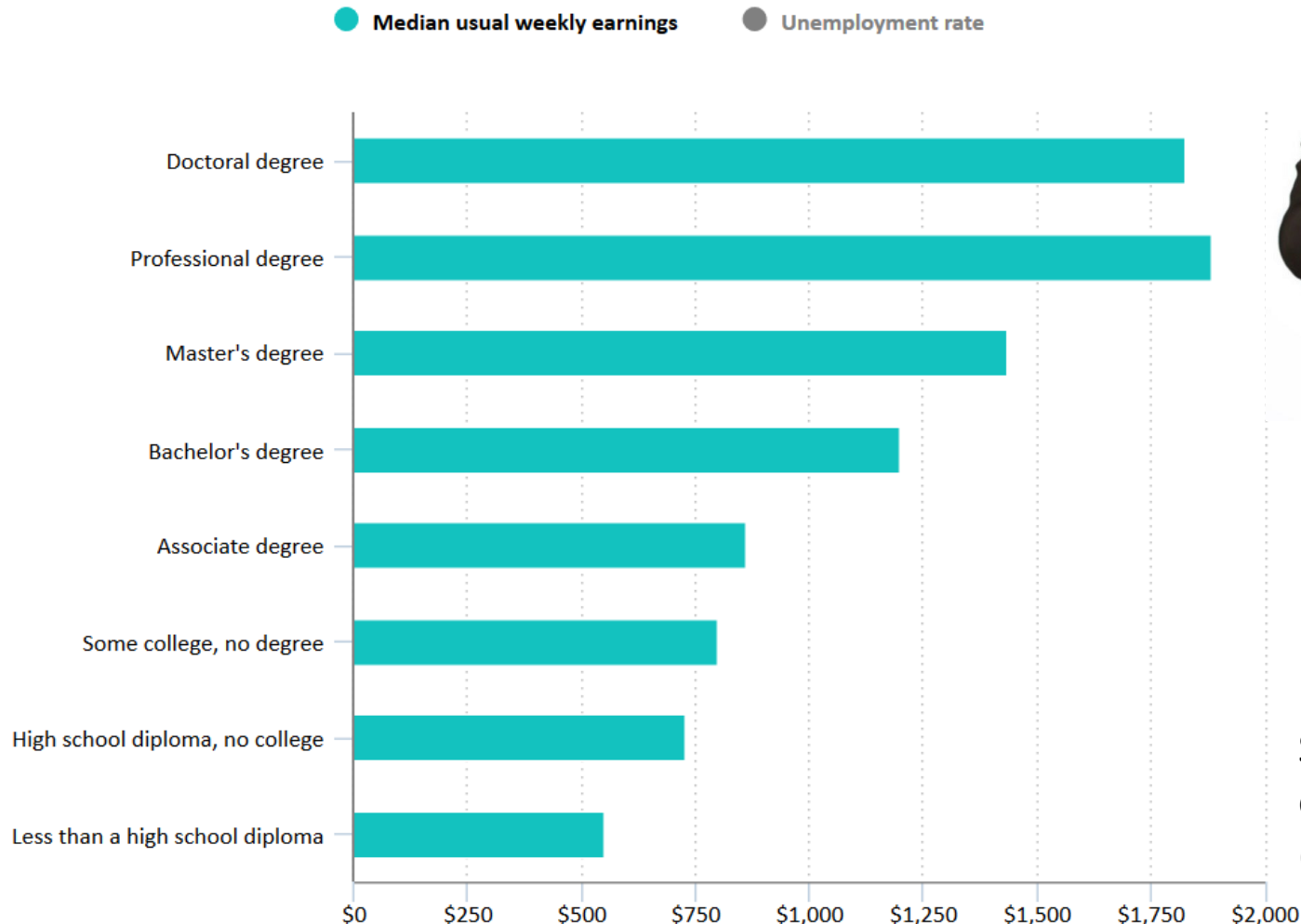
# Reasons to go to Graduate School

- Professional Benefits
  - Greater Financial Compensation
    - A master's degree holder earns ~ **\$20,000 more annually** than a bachelor's degree holder
  - Career Advancement in a **Demanding Job Market**
  - Employment Opportunities
  - Networking
- Personal Benefits
  - Become a Lifelong Learner
  - **Sense of Accomplishment**
  - Lifestyle Changes
  - Opportunity to Change Gears



# Graduate Education Pays

Median weekly earnings and unemployment rate by educational attainment, 2018



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) data 2019



# Grad School vs. Undergrad School

- Key differences between the two programs
  - Extracurricular activities
  - Working
  - Studying
- What degree should you go for?
  - Masters degree vs. PhD

# But when should I go?

- Should I take time off?
- What is different if I take time off before I go?
- What should I do in the meantime?

# Choosing where to apply

- Selecting a program
  - Searching the web/literature
    - <https://www.usnews.com/best-graduate-schools/search>
    - <https://www.princetonreview.com/grad-school-search>
  - Talking to professors
  - Via research experience/ interests
- CSUF ECS as a potential option
  - <http://www.fullerton.edu/ecs/future/gradprogram.php>



# Graduate Programs at ECS

- The College of Engineering and Computer Science (ECS) offers seven Master of Science (M.S.) Program
  - Master of Science in Civil Engineering
  - Master of Science in Computer Engineering
  - Master of Science in Computer Science
  - Master of Science in Electrical Engineering
  - Master of Science in Environmental Engineering (online)
  - Master of Science in Mechanical Engineering
  - Master of Science in Software Engineering (online)
- <http://www.fullerton.edu/ecs/future/gradprogram.php>

# Graduate School During the Pandemic

- Fewer lost opportunities
  - According to the US BLS, 21 million people were out of work as of May 2020
  - There's a **lot of competition** in the workforce
  - Taking yourself out of the rat race while you get additional credentials could be a **smart strategy**
- Decreased interest rates on student loans
- A Resume Boost

**A graduate degree could be a job magnet as the world recovers from COVID-19**