Role Models in CS
Role models can be sources of inspiration, motivation, and influence in deciding upon and persisting in careers.

Role models can be especially important in choosing and remaining in challenging and non-traditional career paths.
Important questions to ask yourself?

- Do I have any role models currently?
- Do I have any role models in CS?
- If yes, how did I select my role model?
- If no, what steps do I need to take to identify a role model?
- What direction do you want to take in CS? (You should try to start finding role models in that area now).
What are the benefits of role models?

- Offer advice and information
- Give encouragement and support
- Answer questions that may be hard to ask others
- Show you how to succeed and achieve your goals
- Teach by example
How do you choose a role model?

Identify individuals who:
- Do the kind of work that you want to do
- You can feel comfortable with
- You can identify with
- You can learn from
Can you have more than one role model?

- Yes. Some people have different role models for their different areas of interests.
- Role models can be people you see from a far, like famous successful computer scientists or the guest speakers we will have in class.
- Role models can be people who you see on a daily basis (examples: Upperclassmen, Graduate students)
Group discussion:

- What suggestions do you have for someone who wants a role model and does not know how to get one?
- What ideas do you have for getting the most from a role model?
Must role models match me?

Not necessarily.

- Some individuals prefer role models who are similar to them in gender or ethnicity
- Other individuals report very positive experiences with role models who differ from them