

Yanbing Li *98

Atherton, CA

Graduate Alumni Trustee Candidate

Recognized as a leading engineering/technology executive, Yanbing Li considers Princeton the launchpad for her 25-year career. Her early interest in STEM disciplines and the academic foundation she received at Princeton combined to give her the tools “to stay at the cutting edge of technology. As a technologist, software engineer, and product and business leader, I’ve witnessed and actively contributed to groundbreaking advancements across semiconductors, the internet, cloud computing, and now data and AI.”

Li began her career at Synopsys, the developer of software that automates the design of highly complex computer chips and semiconductors. She then went on to spend 11 years at VMware, the cloud computing and virtualization technology company where she held multiple executive leadership roles, completed the Stanford Executive Program from Stanford Graduate School of Business and was based out of China for five years. She followed that with two years as a vice president of product and engineering at Google, leading Google Cloud operations that provide monitoring tooling to keep Google’s infrastructure and services running.

“At every step,” says Li, “I have been drawn not only to the technical and business challenges, but also to the bold missions behind them — how technology can serve the world, a principle deeply rooted in Princeton’s mission.”

In 2021, this passion led her to Aurora where, as senior vice president of engineering, she led the development of the AI-powered Aurora Driver, bringing full autonomy to trucking and enhanced

safety and efficiency in freight transportation. She notes that self-driving trucks can significantly reduce collisions related to human errors, deliver freights faster than human drivers and address the shortage of 80,000 drivers in the workforce.

Li was named chief product officer at Datadog in 2024. At this monitoring and security platform for cloud applications, she is responsible for the product vision, execution and business success of a \$3 billion portfolio of products spanning observability, security, product analytics, cloud service management and AI. These products monitor in real time the performance, and therefore the reliability, of applications powering today's enterprises, from banking and healthcare, to broadcasting and streaming, and robotics and AI.

Li was on the board of Neophotonics and served on the Audit Committee from 2019 to 2022 until its acquisition by Lumentum. She currently chairs the Board of Hua Yuan Science and Technology Association, a Silicon Valley-based non-profit organization for Chinese American entrepreneurs and professionals.

Since her days as a graduate student at Princeton, she has been an advocate for promoting women in the sciences. Li served on the Silicon Valley Women in Science Advisory Board at San Jose University. In 2018, Women in Technology International, an organization "dedicated to empowering professionals, fostering innovation and promoting inclusive cultures globally," inducted Li into its Women in Technology Hall of Fame.

Li has also continued to be engaged with the University. In 2017, she returned to campus to be commencement speaker for the electrical engineering graduate students ceremony, where she touched on perseverance, growth and breakthrough moments. “With more Princeton graduates becoming entrepreneurs in the thriving tech industry, especially around cloud and AI,” says Li, “I’ve been happy to have advised start-up founders out of Princeton,” sharing her expertise in building hypergrowth products and business.

She also notes that the Princeton alumni community “has been a continuing source of friendship and support.” She is an active member of the Asian American Alumni Association and participates in their Bay Area events. She has mentored a number of younger Princeton alumni inside and outside the organizations she has worked in. “I’ve been fortunate to be mentored by incredible alumni, and in turn, I’ve had the privilege of mentoring, recruiting and supporting the next generation of Princeton graduates.”