

# My Background -- Hong Hou (侯宏启)



- **Born and raised in Northeastern part of China**
  - My family had always been pushed to the wrong side during the political movements
  - We were sent to a poor countryside where I grew up
  - Trained for resiliency and learned to survive
  
- **Education**
  - Undergraduate and graduate studies in China
  - Ph. D in EE at UCSD
  
- **Dreamed to a professor after doing research in national labs in three countries and AT&T Bell Labs**
  - Institute of Physics, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Beijing, China
  - Institute of Physical and Chemical Research, Japan
  - Sandia National Labs, US
  
- **Corporate experience**
  - Joined Emcore to start its solar photovoltaics business in Albuquerque, NM
  - Shifted to the Photonics for communications during the telcom heydays
  - Evolved from a technology manager to a corporate executive

# Have a Goal, but Be Flexible



- We need to have goals in our lives, but we need to adjust our goals to take advantage of the dynamic nature of the world
- Remember opportunity does not always work with our timetable. When it comes, seize it and move on
- Analyze the risk upfront and then be decisive and never look back
- Play your strength, but remember you may have many uncovered strengths. Get out of your comfort zone and challenge yourself
- Constantly learning is important. You will never learn enough in school. Learning on the job, if there is an opportunity, is often the most effective venue
- More than 95% of the work I do today – I learned on the job

# Get in the Mainstream of America



- I often hear complaints from our fellow Chinese friends that we are not included in the mainstream activities, but my observation is that we are often segregating ourselves from the mainstream to start with
- We have some brilliant engineers and they are doing good work, but they are very concerned about their work is not noticed or credited
- Knowledge and experience is critical, but it can be an impediment, too. Some ignorance, fearless can-do attitude, and relentless pursuit can be more important