

November 1, 2016

Dear NCWIT Student Seed Fund Selection Committee,

I am very excited to provide a recommendation for start-up funding of the ACM-W Student Chapter at YSU. I serve as the advisor of this newly formed group. I have worked with at least two of the members (Ali Morris and Jenna Wise) for the past two years. They are dedicated girls who are truly interested in pursuing this chapter at YSU. Jenna has been involved in the CRA CREU Program for the past three years and Ali has just started in the CREU program this year. They are doing exceptionally well helping me with various research projects. I believe she will make a strong president and be able to lead this group to be successful in their first year.

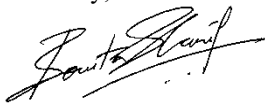
After we got back from Grace Hopper last year, Jenna (our current ACM-W student chapter member) was determined to setup an ACM-W student chapter at YSU. She along with Ali proactively went through all the internal processes to get our chapter setup and also recruited six members who are equally dedicated to this effort. This led them to create our newly formed chapter at YSU but we have many things to accomplish yet. I believe the start-up funding will help the group tremendously to get to their goals faster.

Jenna is also an ACM student chapter member. She is a double major in CS and Mathematics and is an exceptional student. She is also interested in joining forces with some of the Mathematics groups when we plan our outreach activities in schools. She recently presented a paper at the Foundations of Software Engineering conference in Italy and traveled with me to the conference. Jenna and Ali will also travel to the regional Ohio Celebration of Women in computing with us in February of 2017 and will also present a paper and a poster at the regional conference.

These girls are extremely dedicated and goal-oriented. I believe they can achieve the goals they have set out in the first year. They have been very successful so far in their academic and research work that they have done with me. I believe this will translate well to the functions needed for this newly formed group. They want to push this further and get more girls involved in this field and break the stereotypes that people have towards women in computing by reaching out to students at YSU as well as in the local community and schools.

If you have any further questions please don't hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Bonita Sharif, Ph.D.  
Associate Professor  
Youngstown State University  
Department of Computer Science and Information Systems  
Youngstown, Ohio 44555  
330-941-1769  
<http://www.csis.ysu.edu/~bsharif>  
[bsharif@ysu.edu](mailto:bsharif@ysu.edu)