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NCWIT Student Seed Fund Application Start-Up Funding Award - Fall 2016

The National Center for Women & IT (NCWIT) is pleased to announce the availability of funds for the creation of new ACM-W student chapters and the expansion of existing ACM-W chapters, sponsored by Google.org.

About this Award

Start-Up Funding (up to \$3,000): Students looking to start a new ACM-W chapter on campus can apply for funds to help launch their group.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is ACM-W?

ACM-W is the Association for Computing Machinery Council on Women in Computing. You can learn more about ACM-W [here](#).

How much funding is available?

Maximum funding per campus is \$3,000. Limit of 1 NCWIT Student Seed Fund award per campus per academic year. This award can only be won once. Winner of this award however can apply for the Amplification Award and/ or the Trailblazer Award in another academic year.

Who is eligible to apply?

Applications will be accepted from existing ACM-W student chapters or any student interested in starting an ACM-W chapter at her/his college or university. If you're interested in starting an ACM-W student chapter on your campus, click [here](#).

Your college or university must be a non-profit institution and also must be a member of the NCWIT Academic Alliance (members listed [here](#)). Membership in the Academic Alliance is free to all non-profit institutions; to become a member of the Academic Alliance, click [here](#). For students or student groups to be eligible for funding, a faculty member should complete the Academic Alliance membership form no later than **November 8, 2016**.

When is the deadline and notification?

Application deadline is **November 1, 2016 at midnight MDT**. Notifications will be sent via email no later than December 2016. In addition, recipients will be listed on the NCWIT website.

Who reviews the proposals and what are the review criteria?

Proposals will be reviewed by a committee and the following criteria will be taken into consideration:

- Recommendation Letter from advisor or academic department head
- The extent to which the WIC group plans to incorporate activities that are evidence-based for increasing the recruitment and retention of women in computing and IT (See NCWIT's Promising Practices [here](#))
- The extent to which the initiative will be assessed for impact
- How the ACM-W student chapter will evaluate impact (e.g. measuring the impact of the group and its activities on participants' interest in computing skills, sustained or increased commitment to the field, etc.)
- The demonstration of thoughtful and well-developed ideas
- Inclusion of a detailed budget proposal

What information will I need to provide if I win an award?

In order to process your payment, we will need you to provide us with the following information:

- A current IRS Determination Letter indicating your public charity classification
- A completed W-9 form
- Address to send the payment to, including the name of the individual who is authorized to accept the payment on behalf of the organization
- The fund account name or number, or name to reference (if any) so that we may direct the funds to the appropriate account

For more FAQs about the award please click [here](#).

Eligibility

Is your institution a member of the Academic Alliance? Is your non-profit institution located in the United States?

Yes, my non-profit institution is an AA member and is located in the United States.

Not sure if your institution is an AA member? Click [here](#) to see a current list of NCWIT Academic Alliance members. If your non-profit college or university is interested in becoming an NCWIT Academic Alliance member, please click [here](#).

Is your organization currently an ACM-W student chapter? My organization is currently an ACM-W chapter.

Not sure if your organization is an ACM-W student chapter? Click [here](#) to see a current list of ACM-W student chapters. If you're interested in starting an ACM-W student chapter on your campus or affiliating your existing (Women in Computing) WIC group as an ACM-W chapter, please click [here](#).

Student Organization Information

Name of student organization:	ACM-W Student Chapter
Email address for student organization:	acmw.ysu@gmail.com
Name of student leader (first name, last name):	Ali Morris
Email address for student leader:	almorris01@student.ysu.edu
Name of university or college:	Youngstown State University
Name of advisor or faculty department head (recommendation writer):	Bonita Sharif
Email address of advisor or faculty department head:	bsharif@ysu.edu

Description of Student Organization

Description of student organization (mission of the organization):	YSU ACM-W's mission is to inform, celebrate, & support female students in the computing field. We work with the ACM-W community of computer scientists, educators including K-12, and employers looking to improve working & learning environments for women.
Organization URL (if applicable):	http://ysuwomen.hosting.acm.org/
Number of members in your organization:	6
Number of CS/IT majors on campus, male and female (please ask a faculty member for estimate if unknown):	450 undergraduate and 50 graduate

Description of Gift Usage

Provide a detailed budget describing how the gift will be used (e.g. \$XXX to be spent on recruitment, food, transportation, \$XXX on event space rental)

We plan to hold 4 events during the year. The funding we require to support our year is as follows:

- Materials for Ozobot activity: \$300
- ACM-W Distinguished Speaker: \$800
- Transportation & Food Expenses: \$500
- Recruitment Costs: \$400
- Information Materials & Items for Events (i.e. ACM-W gear & hand outs for attendees): \$500
- Fund for Miscellaneous tech equipment (i.e. items we will need to take to our coding demo day that may not be provided by k12 schools we travel to): \$500

How do you plan to recruit members for your ACM-W student chapter?

We hope to recruit members by developing a strong presence through publicizing our upcoming events that will appeal to both incoming students and existing students who don't feel in touch with the computing community. Specifically, we have a STEM Fest coming up that incoming freshman will attend. There will be about 300-400 freshman, so we will have a good opportunity to get the attention of incoming females interested in the computing field. Additionally, we have acquired a mailing list to hopefully reach out to female students who may be unaware or not currently involved in any computer science activities. We will also post and invite female students via events on our Facebook page.

What is your goal membership for your ACM-W student chapter in year 1?

Our goal is to establish a strong presence on campus and set a precedence for the future of our ACM-W chapter at YSU. We hope to achieve this by drawing in new members, successfully holding multiple events that are recognized by the STEM community on campus, and raise awareness about the value of diversity in our field. We expect to double our membership numbers at the end of the first year.

What type of events/activities does your ACM-W student chapter plan to execute?

For this upcoming year we have planned out 4 events. First, We are planning a code demo day- we would like to travel to local area schools and invite female students to try out coding with us. We will have a lesson plan prepared as well as having our group members do a presentation about Women in Computing. Second, we plan a hands-on activity we have planned involves robotics. We plan to acquire multiple Ozobots and present activities to teach girls about robotics and coding. This will also involve girls of school age. Our third event is a Women in Computing Open House at our university. We plan to tap into our recruitment funds to advertise and reach out to prospective STEM majors from middle school and high school age, current STEM undecided majors, as well as current female students in our department. We plan to hold a tour of our department, have a few speakers from the department do an information session, and have a few demos running in labs. Finally, for our fourth event we would like to get a female ACM distinguished guest speaker to come in and give a talk in a computing related field such as Robotics or Software Engineering.

How will the creation of an ACM-W student chapter at your university/college benefit the

I believe our group has the potential to educate others in the importance of a female presence in all fields of computing. We hope that through various activities and events we will be able to draw

students on campus?	attention to our field and hopefully bring in girls who could be undecided and unaware of all that computer science and related fields have to offer. Even though we are an all-female organization I think this will benefit everyone on campus because diversity will make all computing fields thrive as a whole.
How will you acquire a faculty advisor for your ACM-W student chapter?	We have already acquired two faculty members to guide our group, Dr. Alina Lazar and Dr. Bonita Sharif, two of our tenure-track, female professors in our department. In addition to being active members in various campus activities they are also part of the organizing committee for the ACM Ohio Celebration of Women in Computing (OCWIC).
What resources on your university/college campus currently exist to support the development of an ACM-W student chapter? And how will you tap into those?	YSU provides opportunity to receive funding through our student government association. They allow applications to be considered to receive funds to host events. We will apply for student government funds for one event that we plan to hold. In addition our university provides a sense of community that will support the development of our chapter. All groups are constantly being updated with upcoming campus-wide events that we are welcome to attend to support the growth of both new groups and those that are more established. This allows us to communicate with others on a larger scale and learn more about becoming a successful group from others who have already achieved this. We will publicize all events through the student activities newsletter that goes out biweekly.
What measures will you use to determine success in the creation of your ACM-W student chapter?	The success of our group can be measured in multiple ways including the amount of females we are able to reach out to and educate about the importance of our mission, how our group grows in both size and how well we establish our presence within our university, and also the success of the events we plan to hold. With the small amount of women in our department to begin with it has been a demanding, but rewarding task of getting an all-female chapter off the ground. I think that if we are able to organize and complete all our desired activities and events we have planned out that will prove to be a successful start for our chapter.

Summary of Proposal

Please provide a summary of your proposal (40 words or less). See examples from past winners [here](#).

Summary of Proposal	Desires to recruit more members and perform outreach events for women in the community to increase their involvement in computing.
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Recommendation

In order to complete your application, please upload a signed recommendation, in PDF format, from your advisor or academic department head.

Faculty recommendation	startup seed fund recommendation.pdf
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Final Report

If you receive funding, you will be asked to include the following items in your final report:

- College/university name
- Advisor or academic department head name and contact information
- Student leader name and contact information
- Description of how funds were used to achieve your outcomes, as described in this proposal
- Number of ACM-W student chapter members prior to receiving the award
- Number of ACM-W student chapter members after receiving the award
- Ethnic/racial composition of group members
- Number of attendees at smallest event held during the year
- Number of attendees at the largest event held during the year
- Does your ACM-W student chapter host any events that are open to men?
 - If so, how many events? And at each event, what percentage of attendees are male?
- How you measured the success of your activities (surveys, focus groups, increase in attendees, etc.)
- A reporting of the results of your evaluation(s)
- Recommendations to future groups who would like to replicate your work
- **Advisors:** You are highly encouraged to share your group's goals and outcomes on the NCWIT's [ACT](#) tool
- **Students:** You are highly encouraged to join the Aspirations Community [here](#). (additional award opportunities will be communicated via this group)
- Up to 4 photos of your group (optional)

Final reports are due on **May 1, 2017** for applications received in the fall of 2016. Data from funded proposals and final reports may be published on the NCWIT website.

Does your organization agree to submit the report by the May 1, 2017 deadline at midnight MT? Yes

If no, please explain why:

Permission

If your Student Seed Fund proposal is awarded funding, do you give NCWIT permission to share your application? Yes

Do you give NCWIT permission to share your student organization contact information with other NCWIT Alliances (e.g. share information with the Workforce Alliance for potential internships)? Yes

Do you give NCWIT permission to use any photos you submit? Yes

Publicity

How did you hear about this opportunity? NCWIT Aspirations Community

Please explain:

Thank You!

Thank you for your interest in the Student Seed Fund sponsored by Google.org! If you have questions about the application process, you may email stephanie.weber@ncwit.org.

About Google.org: Google.org brings together philanthropic initiatives across Google. Our [Global Impact Awards](#) support organizations using technology and innovative approaches to make the world a better place. Our engineers develop products to help people in times of need. Nonprofits receive [support](#) through free and discounted ads, apps and products. And employees at Google like to give back and we encourage it, whether through gift-matching, volunteer support, or providing opportunities to take time out of work to support nonprofits they love.

About NCWIT: The National Center for Women & Information Technology (NCWIT) is a non-profit change leader network of more than 700 universities, companies, non-profits, and government organizations nationwide working to increase women's meaningful participation in computing. NCWIT equips change leaders with resources and platforms for taking action in recruiting, retaining, and advancing women from K-12 and higher education through industry and entrepreneurial careers. Find out more at www.ncwit.org.

About ACM-W: ACM-W is the Association for Computing Machinery Council on Women in Computing. We support, celebrate, and advocate internationally for the full engagement of women in all aspects of the computing field, providing a wide range of programs and services to ACM members and working in the larger community to advance the contributions of technical women. We do this primarily through our Celebrations of Women in Computing, ACM-W Chapters, scholarships for women CS students to attend research conferences, and the Athena Lecturer Award.

User:

Student Seed Fund Application Review - Fall 2016

Introduction

Dear Student Seed Fund Reviewers,

We have closed the call for proposals for the Student Seed Fund. Please review your assigned proposals and complete your evaluations no later than **December 1, 2016**. Thank you again for all you do on this team; NCWIT could not do this without YOU!

Instructions

Below you can see the application that you have been asked to review. The entire application appears below, including instructions to the applicant.

Please scroll to the "About this Award" section to see what category of award you are reviewing, including the amount of the award. While we tried to keep award reviews within the same category, it was not always possible, therefore it's important for you to know the category you are reviewing. Next, scroll to the section titled "Student Organization Information". Every proposal begins with this section, please begin your evaluation here. There is also a tab next to the top of the application that reads "Signed Recommendation". This is the recommendation for the application. Please consider the recommendation while completing your overall evaluation.

Rating Scale

All evaluations are considered on a 5-point rating scale using the following descriptions.

- 5 - Very High
- 4 - High
- 3 - Moderate
- 2 - Low
- 1 - Very Low

Evaluation

IMPACT

- How many students will benefit from this initiative?
- Has the initiative occurred previously? Or does this bring a new initiative to the college or university?
- Are the funds designated to accomplish maximum impact for students/participants?

Degree of Impact 4

EFFECTIVE PRACTICES

- Does the initiative build upon effective practices in recruiting and/or retaining women?
- Will this project provide a positive experience for participants that strengthens their knowledge of and/or plans to pursue computing?

Use of Effective Practices 3

ASSESSMENT

- Is there a sufficient assessment plan in place to know if the initiative has succeeded?
- If the initiative has been attempted/completed previously, were the assessment results used to inform future activity?

Use of Assessment 2

OVERALL EVALUTION

- Does the proposal present a quality initiative that has the potential to succeed?

Overall Evaluation 4

Combined Overall Score

Combined Overall Score

Applicant Feedback

Please provide some feedback for the applicant that would help improve their proposal for the future, if not selected for this round.

This group provides an interesting set of activities to get high school girls interested in computing. Only one activity (bringing in a speaker) is aimed at the current students. It would have been nice to see more activities focused on the current set of students. While the few very active (and commended) students seem very passionate, it is questionable how much these activities will help in retaining current incoming students. The letter of support further details the great potential of these students; no specific promises are made. Assessment is weak, it will be very difficult to gage the impact of workshops at high schools.

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- 2 - Low
- 1 - Very Low

Evaluation

IMPACT

- How many students will benefit from this initiative?
- Has the initiative occurred previously? Or does this bring a new initiative to the college or university?
- Are the funds designated to accomplish maximum impact for students/participants?

Degree of Impact 4

EFFECTIVE PRACTICES

- Does the initiative build upon effective practices in recruiting and/or retaining women?
- Will this project provide a positive experience for participants that strengthens their knowledge of and/or plans to pursue computing?

Use of Effective Practices 5

ASSESSMENT

- Is there a sufficient assessment plan in place to know if the initiative has succeeded?
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Use of Assessment 5

OVERALL EVALUTION

- Does the proposal present a quality initiative that has the potential to succeed?

Overall Evaluation 4

Combined Overall Score

Combined Overall Score

Applicant Feedback

Please provide some feedback for the applicant that would help improve their proposal for the future, if not selected for this round.

It is a great proposal with interesting events planned.

Members are on the low side

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EFFECTIVE PRACTICES

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Use of Effective Practices 4

ASSESSMENT

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Use of Assessment 3

OVERALL EVALUATION

- Does the proposal present a quality initiative that has the potential to succeed?

Overall Evaluation 4

Combined Overall Score

Combined Overall Score

Applicant Feedback

Please provide some feedback for the applicant that would help improve their proposal for the future, if not selected for this round.

You may want to include as part of your Events an Assessment Survey to determine if the event was successful in interesting students that had not previously considered a Computing Profession, and whether your event has changed their opinions. This type of Assessment could be use for both your K12 outreach event, as well as your on-campus recruiting events. This might give you feedback on how you might change your content, if necessary, in order to appeal to more participants.

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Overall Evaluation 3

Combined Overall Score

Combined Overall Score

Applicant Feedback

Please provide some feedback for the applicant that would help improve their proposal for the future, if not selected for this round.

You should look into the ACM Distinguished Speaker series, where ACM covers the cost to have a distinguished speaker come to your event. I also would have liked to see more details in the budget. For instance, \$400 in "Recruitment Costs" means what? Flyers? Pens with your chapter information on them? T-Shirts? Show me that you've looked into how to use the money and aren't just putting in numbers so that everything adds up to the max.

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,



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