Description of student organization (mission of the organization) 300 character limit:

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:

Nine

Number of CS/IT majors on campus, male and female (please ask a faculty member for estimate if unknown):

450 undergraduate and 50 graduate majors

# 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): 300 character limit:

We plan to hold 4 events during the year. We need to purchase 5 Ozobots, for a learning activity we have planned. At $60 a piece, materials will come to $300. We will also need $800 to have a distinguished speaker. For all the events there will be transportation fees and additional money needed for food- these expenses will come to about $200 and $300, respectfully. Materials for recruitment events, i.e. STEM Fest, have come out to about $300. We would like to have funds set aside to purchase gifts and put together packages as handouts for those participating in our events, we would like $300 to cover this.

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. 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. Another hands-on activity we have planned involves robotics. We plan to acquire multiple Ozobots and hold activities to teach girls about robotics and coding. This will also involve girls of school age. We would like to hold a Women in Computing Open House as well. 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, 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 students on campus?

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 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.