ACM 2018-2019 Student Chapter Excellence Awards Application

For Application Guidelines, see https://www.acm.org/chapters/student-chapter-excellence-awards

Award Category: Outstanding Chapter Activities

Chapter Name: *

Florida International University (49310)

City: *

Miami

State/Province:

Florida

Country: *

USA

Outstanding Activities: Chapter Contact Information

Please provide all required information

URL for your Chapter homepage: *

For example, https://www.acm.org

https://acm.cs.fiu.edu/

Facebook:

https://www.facebook.com/ACMatFIU/

Who is submitting this application? *

Enter Submitter's name

Rahul Mittal

Submitter's Email: *

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Faculty Sponsor Name: *

Steven Luis

Faculty Sponsor Email: *

luiss@cs.fiu.edu

Outstanding Activities: Chapter Achievements

Provide brief descriptions as requested, and stay within the character limit for each

Please provide a brief description of your chapter and school (1500 character maximum) *

The FIU School of Computing and Information Sciences (SCIS) is a leading research school and the largest producer of computing talent in the State of Florida awarding the fifth most computer science degrees in the US and graduating more minorities with STEM degrees than any other school in the country. We have 565 registered members and 100 active members this year coming from diverse backgrounds and majors: CS, IT, Engineering, IoT, Cybersecurity, Data Science, Mathematics, Statistics, Economics, Psychology and Biology. Our policy is that if you want to be here, we want to have you. We want to bring people together for their love of programming, hardware, and technology, regardless of their background. We hold meetings and workshops every week on different topics to expose people to a multitude of fields in technology led by faculty, alumni and students alike. We host special events for professional development, including interview preparation, hosting companies on campus, and networking sessions. We help students apply for jobs and internships and have a strong focus on recognizing members who excel academically and professionally. We also participate in the ACM ICPC and have a programming team of dedicated students that meet on Thursdays and Saturdays to practice. We have an Undergraduate Research Access Program to give our members an opportunity to experience research in computing with Professors at FIU. We organize MangoHacks, a 36-hour student-led hackathon held at FIU.

Outstanding Chapter Activities Essay Guidelines (4000 character maximum) *

Tell us about your chapter's most successful activity/activities. Be sure to describe each activity, including how many people participated, how it was funded, and what made it a success. If you have web pages for these activities, include the URLs.

This year, we hosted a Cloud Computing Workshop Series with Citrix where Citrix Engineers led technical workshops on different areas of Cloud Computing such as microservices and globally distributed systems. The workshops were attended by over 100 students and sponsored by Citrix. We also had a series of workshops led by faculty members at the School of Computing and Information Sciences at FIU. The Intro to Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning Event with Dr. Miguel Alonso Jr had over 50 attendees. It was part lecture and part hands-on workshop. We also have a 3-hour long Intro to Underwater Robotics workshop with Dr. Gregory Reis which is funded by our partner CodePath.org. We will also have Data Structures for Technical Interview Workshop with Dr. Antonio Bajuelos. We will be wrapping up the academic year with a Study Night for Finals in collaboration with the Academic Success Initiative (ASI), the tutoring program at FIU, Upsilon Pi Epsilon (UPE) at FIU and Women in Computer Science (WiCS) at FIU. All our events are posted on our website - acm.cs.fiu.edu/calendar/events and pictures are posted on our Facebook Page - facebook.com/ACMatFIU and videos of workshops and meetings on our Youtube Channel - ACM FIU.

For the past four years our ACM FIU chapter has been organizing MangoHacks, a 36 hour student-run hackathon that takes place every Spring semester over any given weekend. This year we had over 1000 people register and 496 students attended MangoHacks 2019. MangoHacks is a celebration of learning and collaboration. We invite high school and college students from Florida International University (FIU), all over Florida and North America to come and build something together. We started off with a sponsorship fair, where we bring attendees face-to-face with representatives and recruiters from sponsoring companies. Our top-tier sponsors gave on the spot interviews to attendees at FIU throughout the weekend. During the event, attendees had access to mentors, comprised of seniors, graduate students, alumni, and professionals from our sponsors. The mentors helped participants with debugging, and figuring out what technologies, frameworks, hardware, etc. was right for their projects. The point of MangoHacks is to learn anything you want, and having the mentors there to help makes things less intimidating. Throughout the weekend we had thirteen workshops happening around the clock of varying difficulty, presented by FIU students, professionals from our sponsors, and university professors. These workshops took place in an room that seated up to 50 students and were always packed. In addition to serious, professional development events, we also had more lighthearted gatherings and team-building activities. We hosted a cup-stacking contest in collaboration with Major League Hacking, salsa dancing lessons, a pool floatie enthusiast meeting, bottle flipping contests, an impromptu rap-battle session, and

random mango giveaways. A team of ACM members work all semester long, planning, making the website, handling relations, planning travel for other universities, making sponsorship packets and reaching out to potential sponsors, marketing, and handling day of operations, working hand in hand with the board, especially the treasurer, to be able to fund the event. To see the plethora of projects developed at MangoHacks check out the Devpost: https://mangohacks.devpost.com/ For more about MangoHacks check out the website: http://mangohacks.com/

This year was another successful year in spite of a complete change in our officers in the middle of the year due to securing internships and full-time positions at Facebook, Google, Microsoft and Amazon. ACM at FIU is growing exponentially and has been organized into committees: Programming Team, MangoHacks, Research Program allowing our members to pursue their interests and create more leadership opportunities within ACM at FIU.

This form was created inside of Association for Computing Machinery.

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