Name:

Women in Information and Computer Sciences (WICS), UC Irvine ACM-W Chapter

Address:

Donald Bren School of Information and Computer Sciences

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Chapter Officers

Chair : Janay Nunez (nunezje@uci.edu)

Vice-Chair: Katie Khuu (kkhuu1@uci.edu)

Faculty Sponsor

Debra Richardson (djr@ics.uci.edu), Professor Emeritus of Informatics and Founding Dean of the University of California, Irvine's Donald Bren School of Information and Computer Sciences

Description:

Women in Information and Computer Sciences (WICS) is a social and professional non-profit organization at UCI established to help and encourage women to pursue a college degree and a successful career in the computer science field. We currently have around 60 active members with about over 300 unique member attendance to our events.

Students in Donald Bren School of Information and Computer Sciences (ICS):

There are 2,366 students who belong to the Donald Bren School of Information and Computer Sciences. Typical majors of our members are Computer Science, Computer Science & Engineering, Business Information Management, Computer Game Science, Software Engineering, Data Science, and Informatics.

Website URL: http://wics.ics.uci.edu/

Outstanding Chapter Activities:

WICS is a rapidly growing organization that aims to be a champion for women in computing through our various types of events described below.

WICS Games drew in 78 members and 5 companies. Students sat together in tables and networked with company representatives from Facebook, Google, SendGrid, ProSky, and Pariveda Solutions, receiving valuable advice from software engineers and connecting with university recruiters.

Our annual **Mock Technical Interview Day**, in collaboration with the UC Irvine Career Center, provides interview practice from real company representatives. This year, we teamed up with 8 representatives from 4 companies to coordinate interviews for 40 students. After each interview, the company representative hands the student a feedback form. Some student have successfully acquired jobs and internships from performing well in their mock interviews!

Company Tours: We sent 30 students to Google and 23 students to Blizzard to tour their facilities, talk to employees, and receive valuable insight into different companies and their working environments

AspireIT is a series of app development workshops to introduce 40 low-income, disadvantaged students at Lathrop Intermediate School to computing.

IgniteCS is a high school program where we host workshops to educate girls about computing careers and introduce them to computer science concepts. We taught at La Quinta High School for 2 years with 25-30 students and will begin a third year at Santiago High School.

ExploreICS is a new program for female Undergraduate/Undeclared (U/U) students at UC Irvine to inform them about the different majors and minors in the School of Information and Computer Sciences (ICS) and the careers that are available to them. This includes a mentorship program for 25 U/U students, mentored one-on-one by ICS upperclassmen and PhD students. Alongside the mentorship program, we host monthly events. For example, in the month of April, we did a workshop on the Computer Game Science major, invited the Video Game Development Club to speak and demo their projects, and brought a panel of professionals from Obsidian Entertainment and Blizzard.

Conferences: WICS has been involved in sending students to both local and large conferences. We worked closely with the Donald Bren School of ICS and with the Office of Access and Inclusion for the past few years to send 36-40 students to the Grace Hopper Conference. Furthermore, we have sent 40 students, using funds from our company sponsorships, to the Southern California Celebration of Women in Computing. We believe that these conferences give students the opportunity to explore career options and speak to people and companies that they otherwise may not know about.

Because WICS understands how difficult it can be to travel to conferences out-of-state, we put on **initTogether**, created with the vision of bringing together a community of the new generation of women in computing under the guidance of the many active groups of women in technology in Southern California. With 325 attendees and $17,000 raised, the conference featured panel discussions, hands-on workshops, and a career expo.