ACM SUPPORTS FIRST NATIONAL LAB DAY TO FOSTER COLLABORATION BETWEEN COMPUTING COMMUNITY AND LOCAL SCHOOLS

More Than 200 Organizations Seek Volunteers to Improve Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics and Computer Science Education

WASHINGTON, DC – May 11, 2010 – ACM is partnering with more than 200 industry and non-profit organizations and volunteers in a new nationwide initiative, National Lab Day www.nationallabday.org, to bring high-quality, hands-on science, technology, engineering, mathematics, and computer science education to middle and high school students. The initiative, to be celebrated May 12, represents a year-long effort to build long-term relationships between science and technology professionals through an interactive website that matches education-related projects with individual skills, timeframes, and locations.

“ACM is seeking volunteers from our diverse membership of computing professionals, researchers, and students to improve student experiences and learning in critical 21st century skills,” said John White, the CEO of ACM. “As we did in leading the initiative for Computer Science Education Week www.csedweek.org, we support National Lab Day as an opportunity to encourage, engage, and inspire children to grasp the transformative role of computing in today’s knowledge-based economy. We want to give students the vital skills necessary to prepare for 21st century careers, and to foster the next generation of scientists and technologists.”

The National Lab Day website provides a clearinghouse for teachers to identify key projects critical to their success. Projects may include mentoring students, providing internship opportunities, fixing and finding equipment, helping with science fairs, identifying useful Web or other computing resources, advising after-school programs, or donating material. Currently, nearly 50 teacher-identified computer science projects and hundreds of other discipline-specific projects that need volunteers are listed on the National Lab Day website. Commitments could be as little as a few hours or could extend for long periods, with the common objective of building local communities of support using volunteers for projects throughout the country.

About ACM
ACM, the Association for Computing Machinery www.acm.org, is the world’s largest educational and scientific computing society, uniting computing educators, researchers and professionals to inspire dialogue, share resources and address the field’s challenges. ACM strengthens the computing profession’s collective voice through strong leadership, promotion of the highest standards, and recognition of technical excellence. ACM supports the professional growth of its members by providing opportunities for life-long learning, career development, and professional networking.

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