



ACM Student Chapter Excellence Awards Application

The ACM Student Chapter Excellence Awards Program recognizes chapters that display considerable initiative during the academic year. Chapters who apply must be in a good standing which includes having an active status, a complete chapter officer list and at least 10 chapter members on the Chapter Administrative Interface. There are five categories student chapters may choose from: Outstanding Chapter Activities, Outstanding Chapter Website, Outstanding Recruitment Program, Outstanding Community Service, or Outstanding School Service. **Please submit separate applications for every category your chapter is applying for. Hand-written submissions will not be accepted.**

Application must be submitted to local_activities@acm.org by **March 23, 2018**. In the subject line please state your chapter name and the category for which you would like your chapter to be considered.

The last section of this application will require an essay. Please review the guidelines below for the category you are applying to.

Outstanding Chapter Activities

For ACM student chapters that sponsor a series of exceptional activities throughout the year or have focused their efforts on a single major activity. Tell us about your chapter's most successful 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.

Outstanding Chapter Website

For ACM student chapters that maintain an outstanding chapter website. Tell us about the design and content of your website and any noteworthy features. Also tell us how you created it and what you do to keep it up to date. Don't forget to provide the URL so the judges can check it out.

Outstanding Recruitment Program

For ACM student chapters that have done an excellent job of recruiting chapter members. Tell us about your recruiting program. How do you let students at your school know about your chapter and how do you get them interested in joining? What factors are most critical to your success? How many members does your chapter have?

Outstanding Community Service

For ACM student chapters that have made significant contributions to their communities through one major service project or a series of smaller projects. Tell



us about each project, who it served, and how many people participated. Why was your chapter interested in these particular projects? If you have web pages for these projects, include the URLs.

Outstanding School Service

For ACM student chapters that have made significant contributions to their own schools through one major service project or a series of smaller projects. Tell us about projects that help your fellow students, your department, or your school in general. Tell us about each project, how many people participated, and how it helped your school. If you have web pages for these projects, include the URLs. (Note, if you have worked on projects to help other schools, for example neighboring high schools, apply for the Community Service award rather than the School Service award.)



ACM Student Chapter Excellence Awards Application

Chapter Group ID: 49310

Name of Chapter: Florida International University

Chapter Address: 11200 SW 8th St., Miami FL 33199

URL for your Chapter homepage: acm.cs.fiu.edu

Category you are applying for: Outstanding Chapter Activities

Chapter Officers

Chair Name: Krista Shuckerow

Email: kshuc001@fiu.edu

Vice Chair: Joannier Pinales

Email: jpina011@fiu.edu

Treasurer: Andres Valdes

Email: avald198@fiu.edu

Faculty Sponsor: Kip Irvine

Email: irvinek@cis.fiu.edu

Secretary (if applicable): _____

Email: _____

Membership Chair (if applicable): Cesia Bulnes

Email: cbuln004@fiu.edu

Web Master (if applicable): _____

Email: _____



Please provide a brief description of your chapter and school including number of chapter members (1500 character maximum):

Florida International University is the largest hispanic-serving university in the country, graduating more minorities with STEM degrees than any other school in the country. Our student population is comprised of people of diverse backgrounds and many of our members are first generation college students.

We have 196 members registered with ACM, and over 200 people active with the FIU chapter through the university this year. We understand there are different needs for such a large group and offer events catered to people at varying technical levels and are as inclusive as possible. We hold meetings and workshops every week on different topics to expose people to a multitude of fields in technology. We also promote attendance at hackathons (12, 24, 36, or 48-hour team project-based programming competitions) throughout Florida and North America, and encourage people to get together, learn something new, and bring their ideas to life with fellow students on the weekends.

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 Wednesday and Saturdays to practice.

Number of students at your school who take computer science and related courses, and typical majors of your chapter members (1000 character maximum):

At FIU, we have 5,592 students in the School of Computing and Information Sciences, 508 in Computer and Electrical Engineering, 198 in Mathematics and Statistics, 316 in Decision Sciences and Information Systems, for a total of 6,614 students in technology-related majors.

Our ACM members are from a wide spread of majors, including: mathematics, statistics, computer science, information technology, business, marketing, economics, cybersecurity, biomedical engineering, computer engineering, electrical engineering, psychology, 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.



An essay on the category for which your chapter would like to be considered (4000 character maximum - approximately 500 words):

For the past three years our ACM FIU chapter has been behind MangoHacks, a 36 hour student run hackathon that takes place every spring semester over any given weekend. This year we had over 900 people register and 493 students attend MangoHacks 2018. MangoHacks is a celebration of learning and collaboration. We invite high school and college students from Florida International University (FIU), all over Florida and the country 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. It is full of resume-exchanging, raffles, and professional networking. Our top-tier sponsors had access to interview rooms throughout the event and participants they had selected from the sponsorship fair were given on the spot interviews at FIU throughout the weekend.

After the sponsorship fair, the attendees had dinner and attended the opening ceremony. Where the organizers introduced the sponsors formally and sponsors spoke about new technologies that they were working on and challenged the participants to use these technologies with prizes as incentives. Immediately after opening ceremony 36-hour period of non-stop hacking began.

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 a room that seated up to 50 students and were always packed. ACM partnered with Women in Computer Science at FIU to have a "ladies storm hackathons" met-up at MangoHacks meant to empower female and non-binary members of the community.

As is FIU tradition, we also had a balance of work-life events at our hackathon. 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.

After hacking ends there's a giant exposition to show off what you've built. Everyone presents their project to a panel of judges and their peers, and submits a project summary and code to Devpost. 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. And the work 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://mangohacks2018.devpost.com/>
For more about MangoHacks check out the website: <http://mangohacks.com/>
To read more about the experience of organizing MangoHacks, check out this article: <https://www.cis.fiu.edu/experience-organizing-mangohacks-18/>