

Chapter Name: [Stern College for Women](#)

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[Stern College for Women](#) is the undergraduate women's college of arts and sciences of [Yeshiva University](#). It serves over a thousand undergraduate students, of which a hundred and twenty students signed up to receive emails from our ACM-W chapter. This is our first year of operation. The computer science major at [Stern College](#) was founded in 2016, and so far there are twenty students majoring in Computer Science. There are, on average, 100 students taking computer science classes annually, many of whom are Math, Biology, and Chemistry majors. The more advanced computer science courses are taken by up to 30 students a semester.

Outstanding Community Service

Two ACM-W chapter members, one our vice-chair, developed and implemented a course intended to inspire high school girls to consider a career in computer science. Our members developed a 6 week robotics curriculum, proposed and secured university and corporate funding to support the program, and coordinated with area high schools to attract high school girls, many of whom had no prior exposure to programming. The course was a huge success, with ACM-W members empowering girls to code. The events took place bi-weekly on Sundays, and each week 40 girls ages 14-16 from the tri-state area were bused to the [Stern College](#) campus to learn C programming and Arduino Robotics.

The students had varying backgrounds in computer science. Some had participated in [Girls Who Code](#) classes, other took computer science classes at school, and some had absolutely no background coding. Any student that signed up was welcome and with a 5-1 student-mentor ratio, students of all levels were taken care of.

The students worked together learning Arduino foundations for the first three sessions, and were then asked to make groups and to propose a project idea. Each group was given a budget for materials, and three meetings to complete their creations. The students created a water bottle that reminds you to drink, light up shoes and iPhone cases, a bubble machine, an RFID + LCD schoolbus reminder, a soup thermometer, a temperature sensor that plays weather appropriate songs, and more. The projects were presented during a party to celebrate what they had accomplished, in a non competitive way, in front of computer science faculty, and university staff.

Students from all sorts of computer science backgrounds were, in the course of 6 sessions, empowered to work together to create and complete their own coding projects. New friendships were made among the girls who code and the ACM-W members who mentored them. It is our hope for these students to continue coding and to stay in touch with their mentors as they progress in their studies. The feedback we got was tremendous, they wanted us to start a summer program for them!