

Name:

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

Address:

Donald Bren School of Information and Computer Sciences

University of California, Irvine

6210 Donald Bren Hall

Irvine, CA 92697-3425

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 School Service:

As a social and professional club, WICS has made it our mission to provide resources to support women interested in or pursuing the computer science field. First established in 1995, WICS has maintained a strong presence at UC Irvine. After becoming an ACM-W chapter a few years ago, WICS has expanded and created more programs to support the Donald Bren School of Information and Computer Sciences (ICS). These include our ExploreICS program, which informs and encourages Undergraduate/Undeclared students to pursue an ICS major and minor, and our weekly events and mentorship program, which help retain women in ICS majors.

Every quarter, WICS hosts 1-2 events each week. We provide an interesting mix of both professional (company info sessions/tours, career workshops, mock technical interviews) and social (study groups, mentorship, game night) events. This year, we further developed our annual mentorship program from 30 pairs of mentors/mentees to 55 pairs. We paired ICS upperclassmen with underclassmen/transfers to give support and advice to the mentees going through their initial years at UCI. While many of the pairs are encouraged to develop their own type of relationships and meeting times, WICS also hosts events, such as baking nights and study sessions, to allow each mentorship pair to not only bond together, but with other pairs.

In addition, we launched our first iteration of the ExploreICS program this past winter, geared towards engaging women in the Undergraduate/Undeclared (U/U) major who are interested in ICS, but are unsure of where to start. Funded by the Trailblazer Award (\$15,000) from the National Center for Women and Information Technology and Google.org, we carefully selected 25 women and assigned each a mentor that was either an ICS upperclassman or a PhD student. As a result, U/U students receive a personal outlook into the School of ICS, with a very real perspective on classes and extracurricular activities from current students.

Overall, WICS's programs have allowed other students with the opportunity to receive resources to both enter and remain within the Donald Bren School of Information and Computer Sciences (ICS). Through ExploreICS, we have been able to create more diversity within our school, and through our mentorship program, we have been maintain that same level of diversity.