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: 46699

Name of Chapter: University of Texas at Dallas

Chapter Address: 800 W Campbell Rd EC31, Richardson, TX 75080-3021

URL for your Chapter homepage: https://acmutd.co

Category you are applying for: Outstanding Chapter Activities

Chapter Officers

Chair Name: Saman Attar

Email: saman.attar@utdallas.edu

Vice Chair: Matthew Bierman

Email: matthew.bierman@utdallas.edu

Treasurer: Jyh-Yih Yang

Email: jyh-yih.yang@utdallas.edu

Faculty Sponsor: John Cole

Email: john.cole@utdallas.edu

Secretary (if applicable):

Email:

Membership Chair (if applicable):

Email:

Web Master (if applicable):

Email:

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

The ACM chapter at the University of Texas at Dallas (ACM UTD) in Richardson, Texas is one of the largest student organizations at UT Dallas. ACM UTD has 1,371 members who participate in its five divisions: ACM Industry, ACM Labs, ACM Projects, and ACM Education, and HackUTD.

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

In the Erik Jonsson School of Engineering and Computer Science at UT Dallas, there are 4,573 undergraduate and 2,425 graduate students, for a total of 6,998 students. Most of ACM UTD's members are Computer Science majors, while other members have the following majors: Software Engineering, Computer Engineering, Electrical Engineering, and Arts & Technology.

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

ACM Industry hosts two main types of events: tech talks and workshops. ACM Industry's tech talks include speakers from top tech companies around the country, offering students insights to what life is like as an engineer in the industry and how they transitioned from a college student to a professional. Some of our past speakers include: Google, Twitter, State Farm, Nvidia, Raytheon, Credera, and more! Our tech talks bring in the largest attendance of all ACM events, averaging about 75 to 125 students per event. We have created sponsorship packages to allow companies to speak at the events and funding is used to create posters, provide food for all students who attend, and support ACM's other divisions.

ACM Projects is a semester-long program designed to boot camp students into basic engineering principles including Agile, Version Control, Software Design Principles, and team collaboration. With a twenty percent acceptance rating, we look for highly motivated students looking for practical hands-on experience. Twenty-five students are selected, organized into teams of five members, provided a mentor, and work on projects that involve cutting-edge technologies such as IoT, Machine Learning, and Computer Vision. Throughout the semester, students meet on a weekly basis, called "build nights" to work on their project, receive feedback, and pitch their progress to other teams. This division raises funds through ACM Industry event sponsorships. The money is allocated towards completely covering hardware and software costs for each team.

ACM Labs is ACM's research and development division intended to support cutting-edge student-led projects. Students are given the opportunity to pitch new or current project ideas, and if approved, ACM Labs will fund up to 100 percent of any necessary costs for the project. By funding cutting-edge projects, we are helping bring new skills to the UT Dallas computer science community, making it more prominent, knowledgeable, and attractive to employers and researchers. So far, ACM Labs' first project involves ensemble-branched Convolutional Neural Networks. We are currently searching for company sponsors for this division of ACM for future projects, but we are using resources from ACM Industry's sponsorship packages to fund the current project.

ACM Education is a tutoring service aimed to enhance classroom activities and provide supplementary tutoring for computer science students in upper level courses. Despite being ACM UTD's newest division, a team of three tutors has dedicated over 30 hours every week and worked with over 40 students to make this division a quick success. The tutors offer assistance with advanced Computer Science courses including Operating Systems, Introduction to Machine Learning, Organization of Programming Languages, Database Systems, and C/C++ in a UNIX Environment. ACM Education strategically marketed itself through grassroots efforts and garnered attention from faculty members, Teaching Assistants, and students.

HackUTD is our annual student-organized hackathon that serves the students of UT Dallas and other universities around the state of Texas. This 24-hour competition allows teams of students to devote a weekend to develop innovative, useful, and impressive real world applications. During HackUTD 2018, 550 students attended from 6 different universities. In order to help raise funds for the event, officers seek sponsorships from local companies who are interested in promoting collaboration amongst technical students to create a new and innovative application. In addition to financial support, companies provide mentors to help students brainstorm and to give feedback on their ideas and implementations. A total of 80 teams submitted their projects to be judged, with many projects tackling issues in exciting areas of computer science, such as blockchain, machine learning, and augmented reality.