

"Showcasing ABI Systers Everywhere: Building Strong Globally Connected Communities to Empower Every Woman in Computing Everywhere"

Moderator
University 1
Email

Panelist 1
University 2
Email

Panelist 2
Company A
Email

Panelist 3
Company B
Email

Panelist 4
University 3
Email

Diverse Panelists

ABSTRACT

In this panel, ABI Systers Communities will share their experiences, challenges and successes of building a strong globally-connected community. Panelists from different ABI communities will address the opportunities for global women in computing, what worked and did not work for them. They will also provide insight on how to join an ABI community, create a new one, and also share resources on how to support and retain women in IT everywhere.

AUDIENCE

Students, faculty (all level), entrepreneur, and industry professionals who are interested in joining ABI communities and learning about global communities and resources to support women in IT and how to start a new community. Our panel is relevant to every woman attending the GHC.

INTRODUCTION

The ABI Systers community has played an important international role to connect, inspire, support and guide women in computing. Systers provides a forum for any women involved in the computing industry. The Systers list has over 4,500 members from at least 54 countries around the world. Systers was founded by Anita Borg in 1987 together with 12 other women as a small electronic mailing list for women in "systems".

Anita's vision in creating Systers in 1987 was to "increase the number of women in computer science and make the environments in which women work more conducive to their continued participation in the field."

Systers continues to serve this purpose by providing women a private space to seek advice from their peers, and discuss the challenges they share as women technologists.

During the past few years, ABI Systers has forged a new initiative to support Women in Computing Communities everywhere. Currently, ABI Systers is actively supporting

Five Women in Computing communities across the globe: Arab Women in Computing, Black Women in Computing, Latinas in Computing, LGBT Women In Computing, and Turkish Women in Computing.

Tells reviewers upfront what this submission is about

Each panelist will present a unique perspective from their community addressing various questions such as:

Any panel submission must have a specific core point of contention, and a clear indication of who will be taking which sides of that issue.

- 1- Why is it important to organize and foster communities globally to support women in computing?
- 2- What are the goals of each community?
- 3- What are the barriers facing these communities?
- 4- How does each of the community retain, recruit and support these women to remain in the field?
- 5- How do these communities draw support from ABI, and one another and also collaborate with other international women organizations and other organizations?
- 6- What are some of the achievements and success stories of these communities?
- 7- What tools, online resources, etc. are they using to manage their community?
- 8- Highlight scholarships, programs and various opportunities provided by Women organizations, IT companies, universities to support and retain women in computing.

PLAN OF ACTION

- We will have 5 panelists (including the moderator) representing each of the existing ABI Systers sub communities.
- Each panelist will speak for 8 minutes and then we would have 20 minutes for Q&A at the end.
- Each panelist will present a unique perspective from their community. Combination of background material presentation via PowerPoint, personal experiences and ideas shared by the panel.

Every speaker will share experiences from a variety of different countries and across borders. They will report on successful trends as well as areas that remain difficult.

In this panel discussion, we will address the following points:

- What are the goals for each of the ABI communities and who is the target audience for each group.
- Background on each of the community, how was it founded, what is the structure for each of the community, and how do you keep it going.
- How does ABI support your community?
- Why is it important to build or join a community, why are these communities valuable?
- Give concrete examples about success stories in our communities. What accomplishments have we achieved?
- Share challenges, and failures and how to overcome these challenges.
- Discuss main projects and the different ways you support your community
- Why is it important to organize globally?
- How to cross-collaborate between communities and also between other women in computing organizations.
- Discuss future goals and interesting initiatives you are planning to support memberships

Reviewers can clearly visualize how this session will play out on event day.

Follow Up Meeting During Lunch at GHC For Each Community:

* It would be great to schedule our panel before lunch so we can follow up with meetings for each of our community during lunch to facilitate an in depth discussion with people who are interested to join or form a new community. Each community would have a designated table during lunch that would be announced during the conference. This would be a great opportunity to reach out to new members and support more women in computing during the GHC.

OUTCOMES/CONCLUSION

- Create awareness about ABI Systers' communities created to support women in computing.
- Invite the attendees to join our communities.
- Inspire our audience to create new communities.
- Share experience of global communities, convening conference, organizing events, and resources and tools to inspire, retain and support women in computing.

Key Takeaways and purpose of this session is articulated.

PARTICIPATION STATEMENT

All of the panelists and the moderator have already committed to attend and present during this panel at the GHC 2014. Please note that all panelists are part of the GHC leadership conference and they all lead their own ABI Systers Community and committed to the advancement and support of women in technology everywhere.

MODERATORS/PANELIST

Moderator

Moderator BIO

Panelists

Panelist 1 BIO

Panelist 2 BIO

Panelist 3 BIO

Panelist 4 BIO

Bios should not be generic but must pertain to the session. Let us know if the moderator has had any prior experience moderating a panel.

REFERENCES/BIBLIOGRAPHY

Anita Borg Systers Communities Website:

<http://anitaborg.org/get-involved/systers/systers-communities/>

Panelists

Links:

www.xxxx.com