LAUNCHED IN 1994,
Grace Hopper Celebration (GHC) is a gathering where women technologists come to learn, connect, and find inspiration. Named for Rear Admiral Grace Hopper, who invented the first compiler for a computer programming language, it is a celebration of women who transform technology.

Produced by the Anita Borg Institute, GHC aims to recognize, celebrate, and amplify the women in technical fields whose work impacts lives all around the world.
Grace Hopper Celebration
OBJECTIVE:

TO BE THE PREMIER CONFERENCE FOR WOMEN TECHNOLOGISTS

RESULT:

15,000 PEOPLE FROM 87 COUNTRIES
GATHERED AT THE TOYOTA CENTER IN HOUSTON, TX IN 2016

Grace Hopper Celebration 2016 was the largest celebration yet, an unforgettable experience filled with amazing opportunities, and exceptional content focused around technology. Women came to network, learn, and find community. Organizations came to learn how to build inclusive cultures and find technical talent. Everyone walked away with memories of a truly magical experience.

90% OF ATTENDEES FELT GHC WAS A VALUABLE EXPERIENCE
3 Days
Packed with Ideas and Inspiration

757 TOTAL NUMBER OF SPEAKERS IN 270 SESSIONS

KEYNOTE SESSIONS
Industry visionaries speaking on the main stage

PLENARY SESSIONS
Large sessions that highlight industry leaders and innovators

EXPO
Career fair where technologists can find job opportunities

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOPS
Tips & insights on building a rewarding career in tech

TECHNOLOGY TRACKS
Informative sessions on a range of topics in technology

POSTER SESSION
Emerging research from the next generation of technologists

Thank You @ghc for an amazing conference!! I have never felt so empowered in my life to stick to tech and thrive in it.
– SARWAT ISMAIL, @SARWATW
OBJECTIVE:
TO SHOWCASE WOMEN MAKING EXCEPTIONAL, WORLD-CHANGING ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN TECH

RESULT:
A STELLAR LINEUP THAT INCLUDED A NASA ASTRONAUT, THE U.S. CTO, AND MORE

We were unbelievably excited to present notable figures in technology over the course of three days: The U.S. CTO. The President and CEO of IBM. A NASA engineer. The former CTO of the U.S. Federal Trade Commission. A leading filmmaker. The star-studded lineup showed women technologists that they can shoot for the moon – literally.

“Never let someone else define who you are. Only you can define who you are.”
GINNI ROMETTY PRESIDENT AND CEO, IBM

“If you want to go far, go together.”
MEGAN SMITH U.S. CHIEF TECHNOLOGY OFFICER

“I would love to go to Mars. I may make it there.”
DR. JEANETTE EPPS NASA ASTRONAUT

“I’m always looking for stories that can not only entertain, but that are educational and inspirational.”
MIMI VALDEZ FILMMAKER, HIDDEN FIGURES

Today Dr. Jeanette J. Epps spoke at GHC. She’s an ASTRONAUT! She’s going to the ISS in May 2018 with the 20th Astronaut class. I cried.
– FREIA LOBO, @FREIALOBO

IMAGE CREDIT: NASA/SCOTT KELLY
We live in a technocracy.

Every value is up for grabs.
We can harness technology to affect public interests.

You can save the world.

DR. LATANYA SWEENEY, HARVARD, PROFESSOR
FACULTY DEAN OF HARVARD CURRIER HOUSE
WATCH THE VIDEO >
OBJECTIVE:
TO BE MORE INTENTIONAL ABOUT DIVERSITY

RESULT:

30% OF GHC KEYNOTE AND PLENARY SPEAKERS WERE WOMEN OF COLOR

ABI ensured that our main stage and plenary speakers were diverse, and asked conference co-chairs and track co-chairs to do the same as they looked for technical speakers. We also challenged everyone who submitted a panel to represent a wide range of ethnicities, ages, and backgrounds and asked them to identify how their panel was diverse.

KEY LEARNINGS:

85% OF GHC SPEAKERS SHARED THEIR RACE OR ETHNICITY

Overall representation of women of color at GHC was better than industry average, but not yet in line with general population averages. We still have work to do!

I speak on behalf of the entire Board of Trustees when I say we’re extremely proud of the work ABI has continued to do as they grow.

ANA PINCZUK
EVP AND CHIEF PRODUCT OFFICER, VERITAS
"Black women receive 0.2% of all venture funding – which is scary, considering that we’re about 7% of the U.S. population.

KATHRYN FINNEY
MANAGING DIRECTOR OF DIGITALUNDIVIDED (DID) WINNER, SOCIAL IMPACT ABIE AWARD

"I aspire to help build a strong ecosystem of women who can harness the potential of technology and use it to build wealth, and to create jobs for themselves and others.

BIH JANET SHOFUR FOFOANG
FOUNDER, TASSAH ACADEMY IN CAMEROON WINNER, A. RICHARD NEWTON EDUCATOR ABIE AWARD

"It only took one female engineer to step into my life for me to realize what I could do – and I’ve become really good at it.

ALYSSIA JOVELLANOS
COMPUTER SCIENCE STUDENT & ENTREPRENEUR WINNER, STUDENT OF VISION ABIE AWARD

The thing I love about #GHC16 is that we are allowing there to be a narrative told by women of color about women of color

– LAVITA TUFF, J.D., @LAVITATUFF
OBJECTIVE:
TO BUILD AWARENESS ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE OF MORE WOMEN IN TECHNOLOGY

RESULT:
FROM MAINSTREAM MEDIA TO SPECIALTY PUBS, GHC CAPTURED AN EXTRAORDINARY AMOUNT OF COVERAGE

To change the gender gap in tech, it’s vital that we get the story out about the important work women technologists are doing every day and the challenges they often face along the way. The Anita Borg Institute strives to get the word out, working with press to spread the stories happening in and around the celebration.

KEY OUTLET:

1.2 BILLION ONLINE ARTICLE IMPRESSIONS

COVERAGE HIGHLIGHTS

129 TOTAL ARTICLES
43 UNIQUE FEATURES
116 MENTIONS

Bloomberg
BuzzFeed
CNBC
c|net
Forbes
FORTUNE
San Francisco Chronicle
siliconANGLE
USA TODAY
U.S. News
Women techies may fare better at non-tech firms. A new ranking says companies like American Express are doing better than Silicon Valley heavyweights at advancing women who work in technical roles.

– ERIN CARSON, CNET

Another goal of this [Grace Hopper] conference is to showcase important role models. Says Hidden Figures executive producer Mimi Valdes: “Our dream is that this movie will inspire young women to pursue careers in STEM.”

– JULIA BOORSTIN, NIGHTLY BUSINESS REPORT, CNBC

If you’re a woman in technology, Ginni Rometty has some advice for you: Accept risk, aim big and never let anyone else tell you what’s possible. Rometty’s advice...received a warm reception at the Grace Hopper event, where she was met with rousing applause.

– SHELBY CARPENTER, FORBES

The [Grace Hopper] conference was overwhelming and...dare we say it...awesome. It is rare to see so many women technologists all at once, and the experience made us reflective in a way that felt important to share.

– THE NEW YORK TIMES DEVELOPERS

We attended @ghc and @abidotlocal events this year in support of #womeninTech. We’re excited for #GHCI16, visit us at the career fair!

– TECH AT BLOOMBERG, @TECHATBLOOMBERG
Organizations at Grace Hopper
OBJECTIVE:
TO RECOGNIZE ORGANIZATIONS BUILDING CULTURES WHERE WOMEN TECHNOLOGISTS CAN THRIVE

RESULT:
60 COMPANIES HONORED ON THE MAIN STAGE, INCLUDING THE WINNER OF TOP COMPANIES 2016: THOUGHTWORKS

Technology is shaping the world – so why aren’t more women getting the chance to shape technology? Anita Borg Institute’s Top Companies for Women Technologists is a national program that creates the industry benchmark for data on women in the technical workforce.

"Good intentions aren’t sufficient. With social work and innovation, we can and will prevail."

DR. REBECCA PARSONS, CHIEF TECHNICAL OFFICER, THOUGHTWORKS

JOIN US
Participate in Top Companies 2017 >

Congrats to @ThoughtWorks for being a trailblazer in diversity and inclusion – SHANA MOORE, @SHAY_NUH
OBJECTIVE:
TO HELP COMPANIES LEARN HOW TO BUILD MORE INCLUSIVE CULTURES

RESULT:
STRONG PROGRAMMING AND CONTENT WAS OFFERED TO LEADERS AIMED AT ATTRACTING AND RETAINING WOMEN

Why do women leave tech fields at such a high rate? It’s a complex problem, and we’re committed to helping organizations crack the code on creating workplaces where women can thrive. Many organizations send managers, team leaders, Human Resources, and Diversity & Inclusion folks to GHC to learn strategies for building stronger, more diverse teams.

1,283 ORGANIZATIONS ATTENDED GHC

It’s dangerous to trivialize diversity; it’s an area of expertise. Equally, it’s not helpful to act as if the head of diversity is “handling” it. It’s a group effort.
CANDICE MORGAN
HEAD OF DIVERSITY, PINTEREST

Equality has many dimensions, but pay equity is an important piece. In one button, CEOs can find out whether they’re paying men more than women – but are they willing to press that button?
MARC BENIOFF
FOUNDER & CEO, SALESFORCE

Task based inclusion: It’s a chicken and egg thing. If you don’t give Julia challenging tasks, she can’t prove herself. Inclusive environments are everyone’s responsibility.
SEEMA GURURAJ
FOUNDER, SQUARE CIRCLE

If you want to be inclusive, be explicit. Don’t assume people who don’t identify as cis/heteronormative know they’re welcome. Say it.
NATALIA OBERTI NOGUERA
FOUNDER & CEO, PIPELINE FELLOWSHIP
OBJECTIVE:
TO HELP ORGANIZATIONS FIND TALENTED WOMEN TECHNOLOGISTS

RESULT:
MANY COMPANIES MADE OFFERS TO WOMEN TECHNOLOGISTS AT OR AFTER GHC

With so many talented technologists in one place, it naturally follows that the Grace Hopper Celebration is a rich resource for organizations looking to fill technical roles. Many companies secure spots on the Expo Floor, where they meet candidates, conduct interviews on-site, and even make offers for open positions.
We’ve met amazing women at all points of their career who are amazing technologists. I’m excited to hopefully have the privilege of working with some of them.

— A LARGE N.Y.-BASED HEDGE FUND

We were very impressed with the quality of attendees, and have a number of candidates we’re looking forward to following up with.

— A TECHNOLOGY SOLUTIONS PROVIDER
Women
at Grace Hopper
OBJECTIVE: TO HELP WOMEN GAIN VALUABLE TECHNICAL KNOWLEDGE

RESULT: A PACKED SCHEDULE OF PROGRAMMING ON TECHNICAL TOPICS AT A RANGE OF LEVELS

Many organizations send their women technologists to the Grace Hopper Celebration to take advantage of the amazing minds and technical knowledge gathered in one place. There are numerous technical tracks and talks where technologists and researchers share ideas and insights from their current work.

85% OF ATTENDEES SAY THEY GAINED NEW TECHNICAL KNOWLEDGE AT GHC

96% OF ATTENDEES WERE MOTIVATED BY ROLE MODELS THEY ENCOUNTERED AT GHC

TECHNOLOGY TRACKS:
- ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE
- COMPUTER SYSTEMS
- ENGINEERING
- DATA SCIENCE
- GAMING, GRAPHICS, AND ANIMATION
- HUMAN COMPUTER INTERACTION
- INTERNET OF THINGS/WEARABLE TECH
- OPEN SOURCE
- PRODUCTS A TO Z
- SECURITY/PRIVACY
- SOFTWARE ENGINEERING
**OBJECTIVE:**

TO OFFER PRACTICAL, CAREER-FOCUSED GUIDANCE SPECIFICALLY FOR WOMEN IN TECH

**RESULT:**

A PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT TRACK FILLED WITH SESSIONS AND WORKSHOPS ON HOW TO BUILD A REWARDING CAREER

For many women, GHC is the first time they’ve been surrounded by other women who have built careers in tech. Our professional development offerings are often standing-room only, as women get practical guidance, candid advice, and first-person accounts of how to negotiate the pitfalls and opportunities that come with being a woman in technology.

“Having a senior leader as a mentor is an amazing alliance that can affect the course of your career. But you have to put in the work.”

SYLVIA ANN HEWLETT
ECONOMIST, AUTHOR, FOUNDER AND CEO OF THE CENTER FOR TALENT INNOVATION

**CAREER SESSION HIGHLIGHTS:**

WOMEN DO ASK: NEGOTIATION SKILLS
TRANSITIONING BETWEEN CAREERS
SHATTERING THE OLD BOYS’ CLUB
BALANCING THE DEMANDS IN ACADEMIA
SECURING YOUR DIGITAL FOOTPRINT
HOW BEING A MENTOR CAN GROW YOUR CAREER

**PURSUING A TECHNICAL CAREER WITHOUT A COMPUTER SCIENCE DEGREE?**

- Identify your skills and learn new ones
- Find peers and mentors to help you grow your skills and expertise
- Show off your knowledge and deploy your skills on the job
OBJECTIVE:
TO HELP WOMEN BUILD PROFESSIONAL NETWORKS AND FIND COMMUNITY

RESULT:
A WEALTH OF OPPORTUNITIES FOR WOMEN TO FIND LIKE-MINDED PEERS AND CONNECT AROUND SIMILAR INTERESTS

For many of our attendees, the experience of being surrounded by so many women technologists is incredibly moving. We often hear women say that coming to the Grace Hopper Celebration feels like coming home. Community is the heart and soul of GHC, and we believe that building relationships is a key part of what motivates women to stay in technical fields.

76% OF ATTENDEES SAY GHC HELPED THEM DEVELOP A STRONG PROFESSIONAL NETWORK

We cultivate community by providing many ways for women to find their people, whatever their interest or background, at social events, receptions, technology clusters, and other gatherings.

NETWORKING SOCIALS INCLUDE:
ARAB WOMEN IN COMPUTING
ASIAN WOMEN IN COMPUTING
BLACK WOMEN IN COMPUTING
BRAID UNIVERSITIES FACULTY
LATINAS IN COMPUTING
LGBTQ-A RESEARCHERS
SCHOLAR NETWORKING SYSTERS
WOMEN OF COLOR
Part of the power of Grace Hopper is that our employees from all over the world get to meet each other for the first time. The other magical thing is that they get to learn from other technical women.

— A GLOBAL LEADER IN CYBER INTELLIGENCE
Women quit seven times more often than men after a bad interview. This is crazy, especially given how volatile technical interview performance is. If you bomb an interview, keep going and keep practicing.

ALINE LERNER
FOUNDER AND CEO, INTERVIEWING.IO

You must have trust in yourself and your abilities. Don’t wait to say ‘now I am ready.’ If you have the dedication and the passion and the vision, you will be able to deliver at the end.

ARMANY ALSHAWI
CHAIR, KACST WOMEN PROGRAM, RESEARCHER, NATIONAL CENTER FOR CYBER SECURITY TECHNOLOGY

Accessibility and inclusive design are not about memorizing standards and guidelines; they’re about design.

ELISE LIVINGSTON
UX/UI DESIGNER, PROGRAM MANAGER AT MICROSOFT

This is what proactive inclusion of working mothers looks like: Child Care provided at #GraceHopperCelebration @ghc. Brilliant!

– ALEISHIA HAYES, PhD, @ALESHIAPROF
OBJECTIVE:
TO FOSTER LIFE-CHANGING MOMENTS THAT SIMPLY DON’T HAPPEN ANY OTHER PLACE

RESULT:
THOUSANDS OF MOMENTS, BOTH OBSERVED AND NOT, THAT ATTENDEES TOOK AWAY FROM GHC WITH THEM

GHC is a place where women find inspiration in ways big and small. From an introduction to an industry luminary to a conversation in the hallway, the celebration is packed with moments that uplift and energize. Here are a few of them.

“Our country needs us to show up!”
MEGAN SMITH
U.S. CHIEF TECHNOLOGY OFFICER

Our very own celebrity

U.S. CTO Megan Smith gave so much to our community; from spur-of-the-moment talks to her closing keynote on Friday afternoon, she showed up in a big way – and even danced with us at the final party.
Dr. Anna Patterson stood on the main stage with her great grandmother’s poll tax receipt from the first time women got to vote. With the election just a few weeks away, she asked the audience of 15,000 to light up their mobile phones to celebrate that right.

"When the days are tough, know you’re not alone. You’re supported by the millions of women around you and the generations who have come before you.

DR. ANNA PATTERSON
VICE PRESIDENT OF ENGINEERING, GOOGLE
WINNER, TECHNICAL LEADERSHIP ABIE AWARD
WATCH THE VIDEO >
It often seems like technology favors those who are bold, alpha, and gregarious. But what about the quiet ones? As Susan Cain spoke, eyes across the crowded room lit up with the knowledge that quiet can be powerful.

SUSAN CAIN
AUTHOR & FOUNDER, THE QUIET REVOLUTION

“Discovering the power of quiet

It’s time to rescue solitude from the myth that everything must be done in a group.”

SUSAN CAIN
AUTHOR & FOUNDER, THE QUIET REVOLUTION

WATCH THE VIDEO >
The fabled GHC dance party always happens on Friday night, after the last session has wrapped up. Anita Borg loved to dance, and we carry on this tradition in her memory.

It feels like I died and went to heaven. Such great and positive energy at the conference #GHC16

– NORAH ABOKHODAIRE, @NORAHAK
Join Us in Orlando!

Forrester included GHC in a recommended list of 2016 conferences that embrace diversity and advance the interests of groups currently underrepresented in computing

—“Developer Conferences Speed Your Transition to Modern Application Development”, Forrester Research, Inc., February 8, 2016

October 4-6, 2017
We hope to see you there!

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