

## **Changing the World for Women and for Technology: the Virtual Development Center (VDC)**

2004 Grace Hopper Celebration BOF

- Abstract

Learn how the Anita Borg Institute for Women and Technology harnesses the genius of women to change the world for women and for technology through the VDC network of colleges and universities. This BOF discussion will cover previous year results, VDC faculty and student experiences, best practices, and VDC affiliation.

- Description

Since the late 70s and early 80s, much has been done to attract women to study and work in the fields of computer science and engineering. From this current plateau we are in a good position to jump to the next level - a level where programs harness the genius of women to change the world for women and for technology. One such program is the Virtual Development Center (VDC), sponsored by the Anita Borg Institute for Women and Technology.

The VDC is a collaborative network of nine colleges and universities that draw technical and non-technical women into technology by making the connection between technology creation and social impact. Guided by a few basic concepts and fresh communication processes, VDC participants create technology-based products that engage and build on women's ideas and vision.

During this session we will present results from previous years and expect faculty and students from participating VDC sites to share their experiences. In addition, we will discuss how to best leverage those results to increase the impact of women on technology for systemic change that benefits women in a positive way. Lastly, comments and information on other areas of concern will be sought, and information on how to affiliate with the VDC will be provided.

- Expected Audience

Computer Science and Engineering faculty, practitioners and students, anyone interested in influencing what and how technology is developed, anyone interested in increasing the impact of women on technology, anyone involved in the VDC.

- BOF Facilitator - Gloria Montano

Gloria Montano is Director of the Virtual Development Center, a project of the Anita Borg Institute for Women and Technology.

Biography: [//www.anitaborg.org/aboutus/bios/montano.html](http://www.anitaborg.org/aboutus/bios/montano.html)

Email: [gloriam@anitaborg.org](mailto:gloriam@anitaborg.org)