

BOF Proposal

Central Indiana Celebration of Women and Computing (CICWIC): a Successful Pilot for a Small Regional Conference (SRC)

- Objectives
Provide inspiration and a roadmap (including practical advice/tips/information) for GHC attendees who wish to pattern a small, regional conference for women in computing (SRC) after our conference. **In a sense, the SRC could be viewed as a mini Grace Hopper, executed on a small, regional scale.**

- Who Should Attend? (No audience size or background restrictions)
 - ❖ Students in a position to assist in the organization of an SRC (i.e. Students who serve as officers and/or principle players in their institutions' "women in computing" organizations)

 - ❖ Faculty members wishing to organize an SRC to recruit and retain women in computing

 - ❖ Program Directors for Women in Science or Women in Engineering Programs or Advisors for Organizations such as SWE or ACM-W

 - ❖ Industrial/business/research leaders who assist (or wish to assist) colleges/universities in close proximity to their place of work in organizing an SRC or participating in an SRC

- Format and Topics
 - ❖ The How and the Why: lay out reasoning behind the conference, the roadmap. What worked, what did not.

 - ❖ Balancing Competing Interests – the Beauty of Combining Multiple Regional Schools: traversing competing interests of women spanning PhD student in 3rd year to graduating UG seniors who are afraid of what outsourcing is doing to US technology jobs. Balance of technical material versus career material versus gender material.

 - ❖ Taking Advantage of Locality: the hike, the local cuisine, the state park facilities

 - ❖ Importance of Making it Fun: using fun activities to build community

 - ❖ Speaker #1: Basic format of conference's first day

 - ❖ Speaker #2: Basic format of conference's second day

 - ❖ Speaker #3: Advice from the entire process – nine months of preparation until the final moments

- ❖ Speaker #4: What our conference evaluations taught us
- ❖ Audience participation: **The speakers would give BRIEF advice, and we would anticipate most of the time would be spent in discussion/Q&A**

➤ BOF Length

We can share a BOF time slot, if necessary – perhaps with ACM-W BOF.

➤ Materials (We will provide samples of the following)

Brochure; Web site; Program; Conference evaluation form; Conference evaluation spreadsheet and statistics; and Financial report

➤ Competing Points of View

We will move from our preliminary ideas of what would lead to a successful conference to our slightly-revised vision, formed by experiencing our pilot conference and studying our conference written evaluations and conference participants' aural feedback.

It is notable that eighty-five participants from five colleges and universities, in addition to some guests from other institutions, spent nearly 24 hours exploring their similarities and differences as women in Computing. The logistics of planning a conference when the planning committee resided on 5 different campuses is also note-worthy.

➤ Knowledge Gained by Attendees

Attendees will receive a blueprint for organizing their own SRC that will aid in recruiting and retaining women in computing.

➤ Speakers

- ❖ Gloria Childress Townsend (organizer), PhD, DePauw University Professor of Computer Science; Chair, Department of Computer Science
- ❖ Beth Plale PhD, Assistant Professor, Computer Science Department, Indiana University. Founder of Women In Computing at Indiana University (WIC@IU)
- ❖ Barbara Clark, Purdue University, Director, Women in Science Programs; Advisor, Computer Science Women's Network student organization; Academic Advisor to Computer Science students and Computer Scientist
- ❖ Suzanne Menzel, Instructor, Computer Science Department, Indiana University, organizer of ACM sponsored JETT workshop at IU Fall 2003.