

## ACADEMIC SPONSORS: ONE CONFERENCE, MULTIPLE BENEFITS



The Grace Hopper Celebration (GHC) is the largest gathering of women in computing in the world, with over 1600 participants from 23 countries, and is the premier international conference where faculty, students, and new and experienced industry professionals, gather for three days of learning, networking, and inspiration. For academic sponsors, the Grace Hopper Celebration offers a “one-stop” solution to address the recruitment, retention, and advancement of academic women in technical disciplines.

**Stepping into the opening meetings at the Grace Hopper Celebration overwhelmed me with a sense of “belonging.” When I returned to Indiana, the sense of belonging did not evaporate, and, although my Indiana world had not changed, the way I viewed it had transformed.**

*Gloria Townsend, Professor of  
Computer Science, DePauw University*

Over 200 universities are represented annually at the Grace Hopper Celebration, from large public and private schools to small liberal arts colleges and Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs).

### RECRUIT

**Fill the pipeline of female students and faculty**

Academic sponsors get the opportunity to recruit top student candidates to their graduate programs, and with over 40% of students in attendance at the doctoral level, you will find recruits for academic positions. Bringing your undergraduate

students to the conference will also reinforce their intentions to major in computer science or engineering and to enroll in graduate school.

- 76% of bachelors’ student participants agree or strongly agree that attending the conference has increased their intention to pursue studies in computer science or engineering.
- 70% agree or strongly agree that attending the conference has increased their intention to pursue a graduate degree.

**I finally realized that graduate school was what I wanted to do.**

*Student attendee*

**The different talks on research helped me figure out what area of CS I really enjoy.**

*Student attendee*

**The highlight of the conference was realizing that the students I took to Grace Hopper really benefited from attending the conference.**

*Faculty attendee*

### RETAIN

**Break the feelings of isolation of female students and faculty**

The isolation young female students and faculty feel in technical disciplines causes many to abandon their studies. The Grace Hopper Celebration provides your students and faculty with a supportive community of peers that goes beyond the conference.

- 92% of student and faculty respondents agree or strongly agree that attending the Grace Hopper Celebration has led them to feel part of a community of technical women.
- 70% of student respondents and 77% of faculty respondents agree or strongly agree that they feel less isolated as a technical woman as a result of attending the Grace Hopper.

**I discovered that I am not alone. The overall experience was life changing.**

*Student attendee*

**It was inspirational and empowering to know all these other women support me.**

*Student attendee*

**“The highlight of the conference was being able to network with grad students from my university as well as technical women from all around the world!”**

## STUDENT ATTENDEE

**It was an eye-opening experience to see so many different women. At my university, there are few women in the CS department.**

Student attendee

**Provide female students and faculty with role models, inspiration, and confidence**

The Grace Hopper Celebration meets your retention needs by providing role models and inspiration to student and faculty participants.

- 88% of student respondents and 74% of faculty respondents agree or strongly agree that attending Grace Hopper has led them to feel more confident and energetic.
- 91% of student respondents and 88% of faculty respondents agree or strongly agree that they felt inspired by the role models they saw at Grace Hopper.

**Seeing such a strong group of young women was inspirational to me and my commitment to bringing women into the world of IT.**

Faculty attendee

**The highlight of GHC was meeting other African American women who are working on, or have already obtained their PhD. Also, meeting two African American women who are Computer Science Department Chairs. This was a historical event for me!**

Student attendee

**The highlight of the conference is the confidence boost I received from being in an environment where everyone wanted me to succeed for the first time in my life.**

Student attendee

## ADVANCE

**Provide networking and mentoring opportunities to students and faculty**

**B**y being an academic sponsor of the Grace Hopper Celebration, you enable your students to advance in their career by providing them with access to a vast network of peers and successful female technologists, as long with significant mentoring opportunities. Students and faculty will benefit from engaging with over the over 1600 participants from 23 countries.

- 74% of student attendees agree or strongly agree that attending GHC has increased their network of technical women.
- 89% of faculty attendees agree or strongly agree that the conference has increased their commitment to mentor other technical women.

**Meeting very accomplished women and hearing them talk about their struggle and trepidations when they started. I realized I had wonderful people to learn from and to look up to.**

Student attendee

**A key venue for professional development**

**T**he Grace Hopper Celebration combines top quality technical content with the best professional development content. The professional development content addresses the specific needs of academic women around topics such as successfully finishing a dissertation, navigating the tenure track, publishing strategies, breaking through barriers to advancement, overcoming the imposter syndrome, and many others.

- GHC features the largest poster session and the most submissions for the ACM Student Research Competition of any conference, including conferences with over 30,000 attendees.

- 93% of student respondents who have attended GHC in the past feel like attending has had a positive impact on their professional advancement.
- 86% of faculty respondents who have attended GHC in the past feel like attending had a positive impact on their professional advancement.

**I'm in my last year of PhD studies and considering going on to academia. It was really great to hear specific details about how women in my future situation are handling the major issues (tenure, being overburdened with committee work as the only woman on faculty, etc.).**

Student attendee

**It was encouraging to hear that others struggle with things that I anticipate struggling with—but that in the end they are successful. It gives me hope that I too can be successful at what they are doing.**

Student attendee

To learn more about the Grace Hopper Celebration of Women in Computing:  
[www.anitaborg.org](http://www.anitaborg.org)  
and  
[www.gracehopper.org](http://www.gracehopper.org)



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*All quotes and statistics reported are drawn from the 2008 and 2009 Grace Hopper Evaluation and Impact Reports. Full Copies of the reports are available at [www.anitaborg.org](http://www.anitaborg.org).*