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Cal Poly Engineering is Everywhere at Grace Hopper Conference

SAN LUIS OBISPO — With 101 representatives, Cal Poly was everywhere at the recent Grace Hopper Celebration of Women in Computing, personifying the conference theme of “Everywhere. Everyone.” The annual event, recognized as the world’s largest gathering of women in technology, was held Oct. 8-10 in Phoenix. Of the 8,000 attendees from 67 countries, approximately 2,800 were students.

Cal Poly, one of the more than 400 universities represented, brought the largest cohort of students from outside the host city area. For six years, the Computer Science and Software Engineering Department has sent students to the conference. The student participation is supported by generous gifts from industry partners, the department’s Industry Advisory Board and alumni.

Major corporate donors include GoDaddy, Apple and Cisco. Chevron and Northrop Grumman have also provided funding.

The Cal Poly attendees represented a cross-section of majors, including computer engineering, computer science, software engineering, electrical engineering and mechanical engineering. Most of the students are members of the Cal Poly chapter of Women Involved in Software and Hardware (WISH), a mentoring program that pairs female students with industry professionals.

Cal Poly’s strong presence at the conference reflects efforts undertaken by the Computer Science and Software Engineering Department and led by Associate Professor Zoë Wood to increase the number of women in computing fields. In addition to providing Grace Hopper grants, the department also supports WISH.

Wood also co-presented a workshop on computer science and art with Enrica Costello Lovaglio, an arts and design professor.

The event was produced by the Anita Borg Institute and presented in partnership with the Association for Computing Machinery.

Link: <http://gracehopper.org/>

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