Making the Most of Professional Conferences

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Plan for Today

- Dinner
- Introductions/ Get To Know
- 2019 Diversity in Computing Conferences
  - AfroTech
  - Grace Hopper Celebration
  - Richard A Tapia Celebration
- Application Process
- Scholarship Process for those Selected
- Past Attendees Experience
- Questions
Introductions
Staff

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Get to Know Your Neighbor
AfroTech
November 7th-November 10th
Oakland, CA

https://e.sparxo.com/Afrotech19
Grace Hopper Celebration of Women in Computing
October 1st - October 4th
Orlando, FL

https://ghc.anitab.org/
Richard Tapia Celebration of Diversity in Computing
September 18th-September 21st
San Diego, CA

http://tapiaconference.org/
Application Process
Eligibility

- You must be a current UMD student to apply
- Undergraduate students must have completed at least 1 semester at UMD before applying
- You must apply by 11:59pm on May 21st
Application Considerations/Requirements

- Best consideration is given to the following students:
  - Juniors, Seniors, & Grad Students
  - >3.0 GPA
  - Student has not previously attended a conference
- Resume, Transcript, Reference
Specific Questions

Briefly tell us why you would like to participate in the conference.

What do you see yourself doing after graduation?

How have you been involved with the computer science department, the Maryland Center for Women in Computing, or other student groups supporting diversity in computing?

What challenges or issues within inclusion and diversity do you feel attending this conference can help you address?

What do you hope to bring back to the University of Maryland from your experience at the conference?
Scholarship Process/Requirements
Before the Conference

- Register for the conference and submit PDF of that registration to inclusion@cs.umd.edu (At Least 3 months out)
- Arrange your own flight and submit PDF of the receipt for that flight to inclusion@cs.umd.edu by (at least 6 weeks out)
- Attend a pre-trip meeting to learn responsibilities and logistics
- Complete an additional travel form
During the Conference

- Attend the conference
- Participate in a group picture of all UMD participants while at the conference
- Participate in a UMD group dinner while at the conference (if requested)
- Work at least 1 hour at the booth (Tapia and Grace Hopper)
- If your corporate sponsor wants to meet with you/and or take you to dinner – we will help you arrange it but you must attend so they can get to know you
After the Conference

- File the reimbursement paperwork with the computer science department no later than 1 month after you return
- Write a thank you note to your sponsor and/or sign a group thank you for larger sponsors
- Complete a feedback survey on your experience
- Participate in an after conference event where you share with students, faculty, and sponsors who didn't attend
Deadline to Complete Registration will vary by conference (At Least 3 months out)

Flight information shared with us no later than 6 weeks before conference

Must cancel your registration if you can’t attend at least 6 weeks in advance

Letter provided to faculty

Some conferences will have exhibitor event

Attend planning/logistics meeting about 6 weeks before the event
Making the Most of Professional Conferences
Q & A Session with Students
Student Panel

Padmavati Emani
Camille Stacho
Sarah Otis
Mei Mbah
Conferences 101

Logistics
• How will you navigate getting to and from the conference site?
• How are you going to stay connected with your fellow UMD students/faculty?

Maximizing your experience
• Is there an app to help you schedule your time?
• How will you spend your time?
• Which sessions will you attend?
• Do you need to pre-register for anything? (Especially Socials)

Career Exploration, Networking and Job search
• Does the conference have a student track and/or career fair?
• What type of networking/social opportunities exist?
• Consider conducting informal information interview with everyone you meet
• Follow up
Must Do

Must Do for Students

1. Upload your resume into the resume database
2. Research
   a. Session your want to attend
   b. Companies present
   c. Additional events and networking events
3. Prepare for interviews and networking conversations
4. Download the conference app.
5. Pack smart (save room for swag)
   a. Bring 1 interview outfit. Okay to dress in nice casual
6. Get to know the Convention Center
7. Make connections
Companies will host invite only socials as well as open socials.

Attend as many of these as you can. (Okay to attend more than 1 per night)

Dress is usually casual
Questions ?