Event: Grace Hopper Convention 2015

Date: October 16th 2015

Attendee: STAIRSTEP member Hannah Leleux

The Grace Hopper Celebration of Women in Computing is the World's Largest Gathering of Women Technologists. It is produced by the Anita Borg Institute and presented in partnership with ACM. The conference was filled to capacity, with 12,000 attendees and a waiting list. I was lucky enough to be able to attend the Convention this year due to STAIRSTEP's help. While at the conference I met many people who are going to help me with my transition into the workforce. The conference had booths set up from many technology companies with recruiters there to tell you about the company, what positions were available, and how to apply.

The conference has many activities one of which was a career fair. At the career fair attendees were able to bring their resume and drop it off at each tech company's booth. Going to visit the booths you can meet recruiters face to face and exchange information like email for further contact about jobs. The conference also provided speed mentoring and interviews, which I found very helpful. The conference also conducted short research talks. I attended the Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning talks presented by researchers, workers, and students.
The conference was inspiring and gave me further motivation to keep working hard to get through school. I plan on attending the conference every year possible after this. I would like to thank Dr. Peggy Doerschuk for guiding me through my research and informing me about the Grace Hopper Convention. The trip was amazing and has made a huge impact on my outlook for the future. I would also like to thank ExxonMobil, Computer Science Department Chair Stefan Andrei, College of Arts and Sciences Dean Brenda Nichols and Office of Undergraduate Research Director Kumer Das for giving me the opportunity to attend the Grace Hopper 2015 convention in Houston Texas.