NY Tech Alliance Teams with ACM for '2nd Annual NYC ACM Celebration of Women in Computing' on March 31

*One-day conference to educate and inspire undergraduate women
studying computer science*

March 23, 2017 – The NY Tech Alliance, in partnership with the New York City Chapter of the Association for Computing Machinery (ACM), will present the 2nd Annual NYC ACM Celebration of Women in Computing on Friday, March 31, from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. at Google HQ in New York City. Sponsored by Verizon, Microsoft, and event host Google, the one-day conference aims to educate and inspire undergraduate women studying computer science through a series of panel discussions, hands-on workshops, and networking opportunities designed to help them connect with their peers as well as industry professionals.

The event will kick off with a keynote presentation from Deborah Estrin, Professor of Computer Science at Cornell Tech, who will discuss her role at Cornell Tech and her career path in computer science. Attendees will then receive hands-on instruction on mastering technical job interviews, learn more about framework testing and optimizing code quality, explore the capabilities of IBM Watson, and hear stories from their peers during the panel discussions "Where Do I Fit In?" and "I Am a Software Engineer." Speakers will include tech experts and executives from companies such as Google, IBM, Conde Nast, Greenhouse Software, Knewton, Code Climate, and more.

The conference is open only to undergraduate women studying computer science and teaching staff. Those who would like to attend must first contact acm@nytech.org with their school email address to receive a registration code. Tickets can then be purchased for $10 each by clicking here.

The currently confirmed agenda for the conference can be viewed below.

8 – 8:45 AM
Check-In & Breakfast

9 – 9:30 AM
Introductions

9:35 – 10 AM
Opening Keynote
Deborah Estrin will discuss her role at Cornell Tech and her career path in computer science.
- Deborah Estrin, Professor of Computer Science, Cornell Tech

10:15 – 11:30 AM
Google Mock Technical Interview
This workshop helps demystify the technical interview and teaches good interviewing habits by watching a Software Engineer go through and explain a Google onsite interview. The Googler will model examples of asking clarifying questions, catching a mistake, listening for hints, and coding on a white board. Other highlights include important concepts, resources, and things to look out for during the interview.

- Kathleen Oshima, Software Engineer, Google
- Julia Edholm, Software Engineer, Google

10:15 – 11:30 AM
Framework Testing in Software Development
Testing is a critical part of every major software system, but is often overlooked in undergraduate classes. An understanding of good testing practices is the hallmark of a good engineer and an important part of many job interviews. We will talk about why testing is actually one of the most exciting parts of software development, and work through some examples using popular testing frameworks and real websites.

- Dan Singer, Software Engineer, Knewton
- Sharanya Venkat, Front-End Developer, Knewton

11:35 AM – 12:30 PM
Lunch

12:45 – 1:45 PM
General Panel Discussion – "Where Do I Fit In?"
A three-person panel discussion about finding "your place" at a company.

- Alexandra Cavoulacos, Founder and COO of The Muse
- Whitney Hess, Coach and UX Designer
- Jessica Lawrence Quinn, CEO of NY Tech Alliance (moderator)

2 – 3:15 PM
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- Molly Nacey, Software Engineer, Google

2 – 3:15 PM
Optimizing Code Quality Through Static Analysis
Ashley and Gordon (engineers at Code Climate) will give an introduction to static analysis and its calculation, then look at how engineering teams can apply it as a real world measure of code quality. You'll learn how to break code down to an abstract syntax tree (AST) and how those trees can be leveraged to measure quality of that code.

- Gordon Diggs, Director of Engineering, Code Climate
- Ashley Baldwin-Hunter, Engineer, Code Climate

2 – 3:15 PM
IBM Case Studies and Chatbot Hands on Lab
Create your own Watson chatbot and learn how easy it is to start using AI with IBM Watson's Bluemix platform. Also, hear about how Watson is transforming industries from health care to media from a group of women who work with the technology everyday.

- Anna Quincy, Watson Prototype Development, IBM
- Laura Vang, International Business Development - IBM Watson Health, IBM

3:30 – 4:30 PM
General Panel Discussion – "I Am an Engineer"
Software engineering is a broad industry, and the jobs are just as varied. In this panel discussion, four software engineers in different roles and in different stages of their careers will talk about landing their first job, cultivating their career path, and taking risks.

- Janet Lee, Head of Engineering, Conde Nast Entertainment
- Elena G. Washington, Site Reliability Engineer, Greenhouse Software
- Neha Singh, Founder & CEO, Obsess
- Dan Singer, Software Engineer, Knewton
- Richard Murby, Head of Business Development, DevPost (Moderator)

5 – 6 PM
Closing Remarks & Networking

About the NY Tech Alliance
The mission of the NY Tech Alliance is to represent, inspire, support, and help lead the New York technology community and ecosystem to create a better future for all. Founded in 2016 with the merger of NY Tech Meetup and the New York Technology Council, the organization has over 60,000 individual and institutional members, reflecting the full spectrum of the greater New York area tech community and making it the largest tech organization in the region. Led by CEO Jessica Lawrence Quinn and President Erik Grimmelmann, and Chaired by Andrew Rasiej, the NY Tech Alliance continues the work of its predecessor organizations, hosts a monthly Meetup at NYU's Skirball Auditorium as well as educational and social events, and continues to focus programming and advocacy efforts on issues important to the technology sector and New York.

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