# ACM 2023-2024 Student Chapter Excellence Awards Application

For Application Guidelines, see https://www.acm.org/chapters/student-chapter-excellence-awards

Award Category: Outstanding Community Service

Chapter Name: *

Universidad Panamericana ACM-W Student Chapter (185976)    ▼

City: *

Mexico City

State/Province:

Mexico City

Country: *

Mexico    ▼

Outstanding Community Service: Chapter Contact Information

Please provide all required information

URL for your Chapter homepage (for example, https://www.acm.org): *

Please ensure your chapter logo abides by ACM's Chapter Logo
Policy (https://www.acm.org/chapters/chapter-policies).

https://www.upacmw.com/

Facebook:

@upacmw (https://www.facebook.com/upacmw)

Who is submitting this application? *

Enter Submitter's name

Melisa Ortiz Morante

Submitter's Email: *

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Faculty Sponsor Name: *

María de Lourdes Martínez

Faculty Sponsor Email: *

lmartine@up.edu.mx

Outstanding Community Service: Chapter Achievements

Provide brief descriptions as requested, and stay within the character limit for each

## Please provide a brief description of your chapter and school (1500 character maximum) *

Universidad Panamericana (UP), Mexico City (www.up.edu.mx/en)

UP was founded in 1967 as a business school. As a university, it now has 4 campuses with more than 12 thousand students. The first campus in Mexico City was established in 1968.
Almost 41 years after its foundation, the Engineering School of UP in Mexico City campus offers 6 undergraduate programs and 11 graduate programs. There are currently 1357 students enrolled in them, from which only 35% are women.

UP ACM-W Student Chapter members are female Engineering students of UP in Mexico City campus. Consolidated on September 14th, 2020, it became the first ACM-W student chapter in Mexico and Latin America. This has been a challenge that entails a lot of work and responsibility, but that we have enjoyed with great pride.

Our mission is to diffuse, celebrate and support participation of UP women in Science, Computing and Engineering through opportunities that enrich their academic and professional careers, as well as their personal growth. Our vision is to use our enthusiasm for these areas to build an exemplary community for women by providing a space for learning, growth, expression and exchange.

Today UP ACM-W Student Chapter has 39 active members involved in more than 4 projects and 5 multidisciplinary teams. Having reached more that 100 female students with our events and social media, UP ACM-W is known by 35% of all female students (480) in the Engineering School of UP in Mexico City campus.

Outstanding Community Service Essay Guidelines (4000 character maximum) *

Tell us about each your chapter's community service project(s) - you may list a maximum of 4. Please ensure to enumerate each one and place in order from oldest to newest. Be sure to describe each project, including: the date (add end date if it was multiple days), who it served, how many people participated, and why was your chapter interested in these particular projects? If you have web pages for these projects, include the URLs. Please be sure to use your chapter's official name - do not refer to your chapter as 'ACM,' 'ACM-W' or 'WICS.' Please note, links to essays will not be accepted and will disqualify your chapter.

JUSTIFICATION
Between 2012 and 2023, the number of professional women that studied any STEM career went up by 46%, yet we are still a minority. Only 30% of the world´s women study a career related to STEM, which pushed us to develop a project to give girls the opportunity to build a future. In Mexico, only 3 out of 10 professionals in STEM are women, despite the test results made by Plan Nacional para la Evaluación de los Aprendizajes, where girls in elementary school scored higher than boys in Mathematics.

To increase the participation of women in STEM, it's necessary to create an impact in early stages, so girls build and sustain their dreams and necessary competences to choose to study and have a professional career in it.
This is how EdTech was born in August 2021. Our goal is to inspire and empower Mexican teenagers, interested in getting to know the STEM world, specifically through programming.

DEVELOPMENT
Since its creation, Edtech has been a project dedicated to create a safe and educational space for girls and young women to develop their STEM skills and motivate them to pursue careers in these fields. In our quest to take the next step and reach underserved communities where people lack opportunities to engage with STEM fields, we came across Las Peñas Institute in the community of Mimiahuapan which led us to develop a course specifically geared towards them. During the planning stages, we crossed paths with Tecnolochicas, who shares our objective of closing the gender gap by inspiring young people in science and technology through education. Recognizing this shared vision, we partnered with them when the opportunity arose.
To achieve the goals of both organizations, our members were trained in the second semester of 2023 in: website design, app development, robotics and internet of things and finally, artificial intelligence. At the same time, we were planning meetings where our allies, the beneficiaries and our team agreed on the details related to the classes.
In this semester, since we had already trained instructors, 3 instructors took charge of 2 groups, teaching each course in 20 sessions online per 4 weeks.

To conclude the project, we decided to organize a closing event. Since the course was conducted online, we considered it important to gather in person to hand out the certificates obtained for completing the courses and also to get to know each other better. For this reason, the instructors and some professors from our faculty decided to join us.
During this event,we answered technical questions related to the courses and also discussed topics about STEM careers we are familiar with. It was inspiring for each of the instructors to meet the students, who expressed that thanks to the courses, they have more interest to be involved in the world of technology. Some even mentioned that they will now consider a STEM career for their university studies.

Each student presented their website and mobile application project during the event. Based on the evaluation by the professors, 1°, 2° and 3° places were awarded for each project, resulting in six scholarships granted by the Faculty of Engineering.

With this project, we know that we have changed the lives of 64 Mexican teenagers in vulnerable situations. At the same time, we have motivated them to believe in their intelligence and capacity to participate in the field. We discover in ourselves the capacity to be headlights in the fog, guiding the young women to the incredible STEM world.This discovery drives us to return to Mimiahuapan, and beyond, to look for other vulnerable schools where we can sow seeds of hope and knowledge. Actually we plan a summer full of astonishment and discovery for childrens. We want to guide them on a trip where every experiment is an adventure, and every discovery an emotion. We will teach them that the world of STEM isn't intimidating, but it's an awesome universe waiting to be discovered.

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