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Statement of Topic:
Women in Technology: An International Collaborative Celebration

Significance and Relevance of the Topic:

This poster is of high significance and relevance to all the attendees at SIGCSE as all the institutions teaching in the area of Computing/Computer Science face the issue of declining numbers of women in their classes and therefore declining number of women entering the computing profession.

It is important to the community as a whole to share initiatives that bring together women in technology together to celebrate their choices and successes and enable other regions and countries to learn, replicate and add to the knowledge of the gender imbalance in the computing profession.

The authors would like to share their experiences of running the first Australasian Regional Celebration of Women in Technology. The tried and true US based Grace Hopper Celebration was used as a model for this regional celebration and the lessons learnt are added to the model to enable other countries to replicate and further enhance the model of celebrating Women in Technology. The energizing links across countries and the further research opportunities it brings are endless and many will be shared with the attendees.

Not only do these celebrations bring together women currently in technology they also build connections with students, to show them the many possibilities and areas of the profession and enable them to meet professional and successful women. Student poster competitions are an exciting way to celebrate student success and enable their work to be critiqued and celebrated.

This proven strategy can be applied in other countries and scalable across countries as most regions need to attract a more diverse cohort of students. There are drawbacks and some of these will be explained and ideas to overcome them given.

Content:
The poster will consist of...
- reasons why a celebration of Women in Technology is important
- an explanation of the cross country initiative based on the US concept
- a summary of the recent event
- the development of a new model that can be used by other countries
- how building connections with female students is important
Abstract (Description):
The low numbers of female students in computing and computer science courses is still of concern. Initiatives to bring together women in technology to share their experiences, is an important aspect of increasing the numbers of female students entering the computing profession. A very successful celebration of Women in Technology was recently held in Australasia based on a tried and true US model. This model was adapted for the region and added to, other countries will be able to take the model and use it in their own environments and cultures. This poster will describe the recent event and give suggestions and models for other regions and countries to be able to replicate it.