

We Need Everyone!

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The 2015 Women in Engineering International Leadership Conference (WIE ILC) was held April 23 to April 25 in San Jose, CA with a special hackathon on Sunday April 26, 2015. The 2015 WIE ILC had about 720 attendees, more than 2X the attendance in 2014. There were women at this conference from all over the world. I was impressed with the energy and enthusiasm of the attendees. I was also impressed with the industrial involvement with this event. Companies that participated and recruited employees included Intel, Microsoft, Cisco, VMware, Square, Google, Walmart, Microsoft, Yammer, Ericsson, Texas Instruments, Broadcom, Rockwell Automation, Qualcomm, IBM, Roche, PG&E, Mercer, Altera, John Hopkins University, GE, Yelp and Applied Materials.

In fact, Intel CEO Brian Krzanich reiterated the company's commitment to dramatically increase the diversity of their workforce by 2020. The company is also pledging \$300 million to fund the hiring and retention of women and underrepresented minorities. Intel and the other companies at the WIE ILC were actively recruiting women engineers. Basically it looked like the market was highly slanted to the women candidates at the WIE ILC recruitment.

It has been a great honor to host the WIE ILC the last few years and to see it grow in attendance and influence. This event inspired women (and the occasional men) at the conference to strive and do great things, for their families, their community and for the world in general. There is enough work to go around for men and women in the engineering profession. We need the variety of skills, experience and perspective that men and women working together can bring to our industries. We need everyone!