Computer Science Students Create App for USA Science and Engineering Festival

The University of Texas at El Paso’s IEE Computer Society LEAD Student Chapter and i-Application students organization in partnership with the National Academy of Engineering (NAE) and IBM’s students for a Smarter Planet developed a Grand Challenges Passport mobile application for the Second Annual USA Science and Engineering Festival (USASEF) in Washington, D.C. held April 28-29.

The IEE Computer Society LEAD student chapter is a network of students, supported by faculty and community stakeholders, who work on solutions to real-life technological problems that can have societal impact. The organization is associated with the Department of Computer Science.

The USA Science and Engineering Festival took place on the National Mall in Washington D.C. The festival features leading science and engineering organizations presenting hands-on and fun science activities to festival participants. The festival includes staged shows and productions developed to inspire the next generation of scientists and engineers. This year over 1,500 hands-on activities and 75 performances representing different aspects of the NAE Grand Challenges for Engineering were part of an exciting program.

The Passport mobile application for Apple and Android developed by UTEP students allowed festival participants to collect digital stamps by scanning QR codes. Each stamp represented a completed activity. Participants who collected a minimum of 10 activities received directions for entering into a raffle for a variety of technological prizes. The application encouraged students attending the festival to learn more about the Grand Challenges for Engineering.