Contact: Wil Wheaton   **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**
917-867-5309
wwheaton@acm.org

ACM RELEASES CROWDSOURCING PLATFORM FOR SOFTWARE PROFESSIONALIZATION
Platform Will Set Ethical, Educational, and Professional Conduct Standards for Entire Industry

NEW YORK, N.Y., USA, 17 November 2015 — ACM, the Association for Computing Machinery (www.acm.org), has published a platform (SoftwareEngineering.org) to solicit opinions for the professionalization of software engineers. The newly built site is the result of a yearlong open source development effort from engineers around the world.

"We're thrilled to finally begin the process of self-governing," said John E. Connolly, Principal Architect of the project. "Software Engineers now have the power to propose and ultimately determine their own sets of professional principals. With this platform we can get to work on unifying the industry."

SoftwareEngineering.org is a joint effort between the IEEE, ACM, Free Software Foundation, and the Open Source Initiative, and is the realization of a need for computer programmers to organize as a profession. The site allows self-identifying, practicing software engineers to propose and vote on ethical, educational, and accreditation policies for the industry as a whole. In addition to crowdsourcing policy proposals, the site allows software engineers to elect a governing body, who will be beholden to periodic referenda relevant to the field of computer programming.

"By November of 2016, SoftwareEngineering.org will have set policies governing the professional accreditation of practicing engineers" Connolly says. "The industry will benefit, the public will benefit. We're proud of this achievement."

Software Engineering is a young field, but has seen similar efforts to organize fail. With SoftwareEngineering.org, the clock has started for practicing programmers to determine criteria defining a software engineering professional. President Obama and the nation's Chief Information Officer, Vivek Kundra, have both heralded the decision for software engineers to professionalize, calling the effort "a much needed action for [Software Engineers] to assume responsibility, transparency, and a code of ethics familiar to professionals in other fields."

About ACM
ACM, the Association for Computing Machinery www.acm.org, is the world's largest educational and scientific computing society, uniting computing educators, researchers and professionals to inspire dialogue, share resources and address the field's challenges. ACM strengthens the computing profession's collective voice through strong leadership, promotion of the highest standards, and recognition of technical excellence. ACM supports the professional growth of its members by providing opportunities for life-long learning, career development, and professional networking