

Richard Tapia Celebration of Diversity in Computing 2007

2007 Conference Committee

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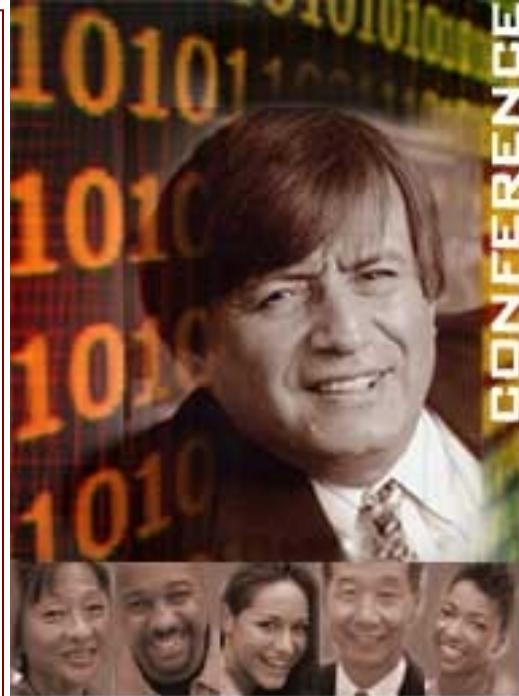
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Richard Tapia Celebration of Diversity in Computing Conference 2007

www.richardtapia.org

January 22, 2007

To Whom It May Concern:

We are writing to you today to invite your institution's participation as an Academic Supporter of the ***Richard Tapia Celebration of Diversity in Computing Conference***, to be held October 14-17, 2007 in Orlando, Florida. The Tapia Conference 2007, co-sponsored by ACM and IEEE-CS in cooperation CRA, builds upon the success of the Tapia Symposium 2001, Tapia Conference 2003, and Tapia Conference 2005.

The Tapia Conference series honors the significant contributions of Dr. Richard A. Tapia, a mathematician and professor in the Department of Computational and Applied Mathematics at Rice University in Houston, Texas. The Tapia Conference provides a unique forum to focus on the technical achievements of diverse professionals and both graduate and undergraduate student researchers in computing. The theme for Tapia Conference 2007 is ***Passion in Computing – Diversity in Innovation***, which is reflected throughout the program.

The Tapia Conference program includes invited speakers; accepted technical paper submissions in the specific areas of, but not limited to, Information Security, Intelligent Systems, Human-Centered Computing, and Computational Math & Science; workshops; panels; and two student competitions -- one in posters and one in robotics. The robotics competition is new to the Tapia Conference series. We are pleased that Dr. Jeff Forbes from Duke University and Dr. Chad Jenkins from Brown University are organizing this event. Additionally, the poster competition is now partnered with ACM's Student Research Competition, funded by Microsoft Research. The winners of the poster competition will be eligible for ACM's SRC grand finals. The student program also includes the Doctoral Consortium, which was first introduced at Tapia Conference 2003 and continues to be a student favorite. The doctoral consortium provides a highly technical and supportive environment for senior doctoral students to discuss their research and to receive constructive feedback from experts.

Because your institution is supportive of diversity in students and researchers, we ask that you consider becoming a supporter of the Tapia Conference 2007. This event will be highly visible and provide numerous opportunities for your institution to be well placed for involvement with the participants that include highly sought-after undergraduate and graduate students. In particular, support for Tapia 2007 has the following benefits:

- Visible recognition of your organization's commitment to diversity.
- Leadership development for students.
- Affiliation with a highly visible scholarship program.
- Recruitment opportunities, currently and in the future.
- Inclusion in our high-quality conference program, website and advertisements.

There are many opportunities for support including student scholarships, sponsorship of an event, and sponsorship of the Richard Tapia Award.

Additional information can be found in the attached documents. If you forward this package to others in your institution, please introduce us to them as it would help us with our follow up. Please feel free to contact us for additional information.

Thank you for your considering the support of the Tapia Conference 2007.

Sincerely,

Dr. Monica L. Martinez-Canales
Sandia National Laboratories
General Chair of Tapia 2007

Contact :
Dr. M. Brian Blake
Funding Chairperson, Tapia 2007 Conference
blakeb@cs.georgetown.edu

Past Tapia Conferences...

www.richardtapia.org

For the first Richard Tapia Symposium 2001 we targeted professionals and students, with an emphasis on encouraging student participation via posters and panels. The target audience size was 150, with the actual size being 164. In 2003, the Tapia Conference attendee increased to 259.

The Tapia Conference 2005 was held on October 19-22, 2005 in Albuquerque, New Mexico, after two years of planning by the Coalition to Diversify Computing. Dr. Pamela Williams from Sandia National Laboratories chaired the organizing committee. The conference proved to be intellectually stimulating while attracting a diverse set of participants.

The conference attracted 347 registered participants, including 117 scholarship recipients. NSF funds sponsored 56 of these scholarship recipients. The technical sessions covered a broad range of topics, from wireless communications to ubiquitous computing to large-scale data and knowledge management.

Speakers included Dr. Mark Dean, Fellow and Vice President of IBM, and Head of IBM Almaden Research Center; Dr. Francine Berman, Director of the San Diego Supercomputing Center; Dr. Janice Cuny, Program Director of Broadening Participation in Computing, National Science Foundation; Dr. Thomas Guerrero, MD Anderson Cancer Center; and, Sandra Begay-Campbell, former executive director of the American Indian Science and Engineering Society and Principal Member of Technical Staff at Sandia National Laboratories.

In addition to the technical sessions, the Tapia Conference 2005 offered student-oriented panels such as “Making the Journey of Graduate School your Own”, “The Computer Science Academic Job Search”, and the “Use of Access Grids at MSIs for HPC collaborations.” The workshops sessions featured a two-part series on Cyberinfrastructure. Poster presentations at the conference provided an opportunity for students and researchers to describe their latest research results and methodologies to other conference attendees. The posters demonstrated the growing interdisciplinary nature of computing, with topics ranging from mathematical modeling in radiation dose assessments to multimodal electronic voting systems. Twelve students presented their thesis ideas at the second Doctoral Consortium. All of the presenters had an opportunity to present, discuss, and review their research with a panel of well-established researchers.

A third-party evaluation of the conference as a whole was conducted by Sapolsky Research, Inc. Results of the evaluation found that the goals of the conference – increasing students’ awareness of computing research conducted by members of under-represented groups, motivating students to finish their graduate degree or to pursue an advanced degree and providing networking opportunities for students, were met. Here is a summary of student responses:

- 95.8% found the conference intellectually stimulating;
- 91.7% of graduate students felt motivated to finish graduate school;
- 95.8% were better informed about the issues related to under-represented groups in STEM;
- 83.3% felt at increased desire to conduct STEM research;
- 95.9% met another conference participant they intended to contact after the conference; and,
- 92.8% learned some strategies for career success after graduation.

Additional information about the previous Tapia Conferences can be found on the following websites:

<http://www.sdsc.edu/Tapia2001>, <http://www.ncsa.uiuc.edu/Conferences/Tapia2003>, and <http://www.ncsa.uiuc.edu/Conferences/Tapia2005/>

Conference Components

www.richardtapia.org

- **Doctoral Consortium**

The Doctoral Consortium, to be held as a one-day workshop immediately preceding the Tapia 2007 Conference, provides an opportunity for Ph.D. students to discuss and explore their research interests and career objectives with a panel of established researchers in computing and in computational mathematics, science and engineering. The doctoral consortium has the following objectives:

- To provide a setting for feedback on participants' current research and guidance on future research directions;
- To develop a supportive community of scholars and a spirit of collaborative research;
- To provide a new generation of researchers and scientific leaders with advice and insight into academic, research, industrial, and non-traditional career opportunities;
- To contribute to the conference goals through interaction with other researchers and participation in conference events.

- **Richard A. Tapia Achievement Award for Scientific Scholarship, Civic Science, and Diversifying Computing.**

The Richard Tapia Award is intended to honor a person who exemplifies Tapia's work as a "civic scientist" --- a scientist who recognizes that at the center of the complex technological and scientific world are people --- and demonstrates extraordinary leadership in increasing the participation of underrepresented groups in the sciences. The 2001 Tapia Award went to Dr. Bryant York of Portland State University, the 2003 Tapia Award went to Dr. Carlos Castillo-Chavez of Los Alamos National Laboratory, the 2005 Tapia Award went to Dr. Valerie Taylor of Texas A&M University.

- **Resume Book of Scholarship Recipients**

We will continue to publish a resume book of all scholarship recipients, which includes top, highly sought-after, diverse students as well as excellent faculty at the Minority Serving Institutions. In addition to the book, the resumes will also be available on-line via the Coalition to Diversify Computing's database (www.sdsc.edu/cdcd).

- **The 2007 Conference will add several new components**

A Robotics competition will be added to the conference. A resource page has been set-up to handle the logistics of the competition: <http://www.cs.duke.edu/csed/tapia07>

The Tapia Student Poster Competition will be co-sponsored by ACM in 2007. The winners of the Tapia poster competition will be eligible to compete in the ACM Student Research Competition Grand Finals.

The Tapia Conference will be co-located with the Grace Hopper Conference. On October 17, both conferences will sponsor a joint "Bridge" event aimed at bringing together participants from the Tapia and Grace Hopper conferences.

An invited panel will address the American Competitiveness Initiative from the perspective of the needs of the underrepresented voices within the computing community. The panel will continue the dialogue that began at an NSF-hosted Town Hall Meeting on "Innovation and the Role of Diversity" in May 2006 in D.C.

Sponsor Benefits

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	\$15,000 - \$23,999	\$6,000 - \$14,999	\$3,000 - \$5,999	\$1,500 - \$2,999

Contact Information - Fundraising Committee

Please contact us for additional information or questions regarding support of the Tapia Conference 2007:

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Academic Institution and Non-profit Supporters

Richard Tapia Celebration of Diversity in Computing Conference 2007

October 14-17, 2007

Orlando Florida

<http://www.richardtapia.org/>

Yes! We will support the Tapia Celebration of Diversity in Computing Conference 2007!

GOLD SPONSOR: Cash contributions of \$15,000 to \$23,999

SILVER SPONSOR: Cash contributions of \$6,000 to \$14,999

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Note: If you require an invoice, it will take ACM 1-3 days to generate one.

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