

Richard Tapia Celebration of Diversity in Computing 2009

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Dr. Nina Berry,
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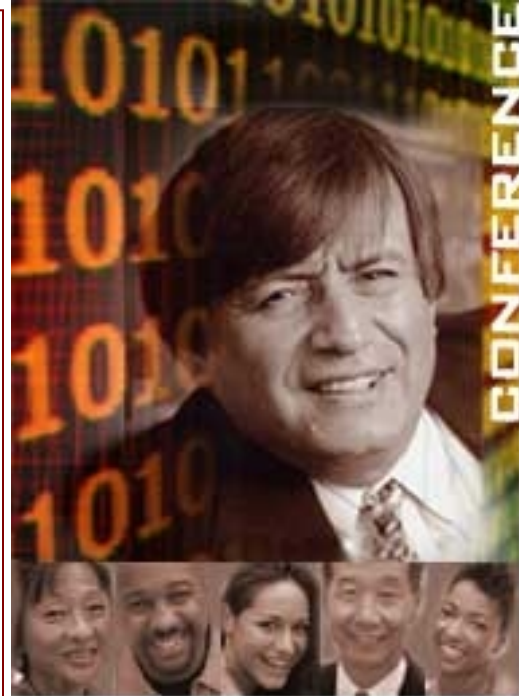
Dr. Monica Anderson, University of Alabama
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Richard Tapia Celebration of Diversity in Computing Conference 2009

<http://tapiaconference.org/2009/>

May 1, 2008

To Whom It May Concern:

We are writing to you today to invite your organization's participation as an Academic Supporter of the ***Richard Tapia Celebration of Diversity in Computing Conference***, to be held April 1-4, 2009 in Portland, Oregon. The Tapia Conference 2009, co-sponsored by ACM in cooperation CRA, builds upon the success of the Tapia Symposium 2001, Tapia Conference 2003, Tapia Conference 2005, and Tapia Conference 2007.

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 2009 is ***Intellect, Initiatives, Insight, and Innovations***, 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 is 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 organization is supportive of diversity in students and researchers, we ask that you consider becoming a supporter of the Tapia Conference 2009. This event will be highly visible and provide numerous opportunities for your institution to be well placed for involvement with the participants who include highly sought-after undergraduate and graduate students. In particular, support for Tapia 2009 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 2009.
Sincerely,

Dr. Nina Berry
Sandia National Laboratories
General Chair of Tapia 2009

Contact :
Dr. M. Brian Blake
Funding Chairperson, Tapia 2009 Conference
blakeb@cs.georgetown.edu

Past Tapia Conferences...

<http://tapiaconference.org/2009/>

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 following year, Tapia Conference 2005 consisted of 347 registered participants including 117 scholarship recipients.

The Tapia Conference 2009 continued the increase in popularity. There were 431 registered participants consisting of 85 undergraduates, 122 graduate students, 62 faculty members and 34 industry professionals. The conference was held in Orlando, Florida, after two years of planning by the Coalition to Diversify Computing. Dr. Monica L. Martinez-Canales from Sandia National Laboratories chaired the organizing committee. The conference proved to be intellectually stimulating while attracting a diverse set of participants.

The technical sessions covered a broad range of topics, from wireless communications to ubiquitous computing to large-scale data and knowledge management. Speakers included Manuela Veloso of Carnegie Mellon University and Dr. Janice Cuny, Program Director of Broadening Participation in Computing, National Science Foundation. Dr. Peter A. Freeman was presented with the Richard A. Tapia Achievement Award for Scientific Scholarship, Civic Science, and Diversifying Computing. The Tapia Conference 2007 was co-located with the Grace Hopper Conference. On October 17, both conferences sponsored a joint "Bridge" event aimed at bringing together participants from the Tapia and Grace Hopper conferences.

In addition to the technical sessions, the Tapia Conference 2007 offered student-oriented panels such as "Making the Journey of Graduate School your Own", "The Computer Science Academic Job Search", and the "The Resume Workshop" 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. More than a dozen 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 prepared by Sarah Hug and Lecia J. Barker of the University of Colorado. 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.

- 96% found the conference satisfying;
- 95% will recommend the Tapia Celebration to colleagues in the future;
- 89% are likely to attend in 2009;
- 81% of undergraduates and 73% of graduate students learned about new computing careers

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>,
<http://www.ncsa.uiuc.edu/Conferences/Tapia2005/>, and <http://tapiaconference.org/2009/>

Conference Components

<http://tapiaconference.org/2009/>

- **Doctoral Consortium and Student Poster Competition**

The Doctoral Consortium, to be held as a one-day workshop immediately preceding the Tapia 2009 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.

The Tapia Student Poster Competition will be co-sponsored by ACM in 2009. The winners of the Tapia poster competition will be eligible to compete in the ACM Student Research Competition Grand Finals.

- **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, and the 2007 Tapia Award went to Dr. Peter Freeman, Dean Emeritus, Georgia Institute of Technology.

- **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.

- **A Robotics Competition**

We will continue the Robotics competition as an exciting part of the conference. A resource page has been set-up to handle the logistics of the competition: <http://www.cs.duke.edu/csed/tapia09>

- **Passport System for Students to Visit Corporate Tables**

The conference features a passport system where students are required to visit each of the supporter's tables to obtain a stamp. The students who collect the most stamps are awarded prizes.

- **2009 Plenary Speakers**

Dr. Hector Garcia-Molina, Leonard Bosack and Sandra Lerner Professor in the Departments of Computer Science and Electrical Engineering, Stanford University, **Dr. Ann Gates**, Professor and Chair, Department of Computer Science, The University of Texas at El Paso, **Dr. Charles Isbell**, Associate Professor School of Interactive Computing, Georgia Institute of Technology, and **Dr. Jane Margolis**, Senior Researcher, Institute for Democracy, Education and Access at the UCLA Graduate School of Education and Information Studies

Sponsor Benefits

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Contact Information - Fundraising Committee

Please contact us for additional information or questions regarding support of the Tapia Conference 2009:

Fundraising E-mail address: funding@tapiaconference.org

Fundraising Chairperson

Dr. M. Brian Blake
Associate Professor
Department of Computer Science
Georgetown University
37th and O Street, NW
333 St. Mary's Hall
Phone: (202) 687-3084
FAX: (202) 687-1835
Email: blakeb@cs.georgetown.edu

Fundraising Co-Chairpersons

Dr. Joel Branch
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Dr. Jamika Burge
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Academic Institution and Non-profit Supporters

Richard Tapia Celebration of Diversity in Computing Conference 2009
April 1-4, 2009
Portland Oregon
<http://tapiaconference.org/2009/>

Yes! We will support the Tapia Celebration of Diversity in Computing Conference 2009!

GOLD SPONSOR: Cash contributions of \$20,000 and above

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

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ACM
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