

Dear Computer Science Department Chairs,

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I write to encourage you to send your students and interested faculty and postdocs to the next *Richard Tapia Celebration of Diversity in Computing Conference* to be held April 3-5, 2011 in beautiful San Francisco.¹ **Please note below the revised benefits levels for universities who support the conference.**

Tapia encourages computing students and professionals from diverse backgrounds to continue their careers by hearing inspiring speakers. For example, this year's Ken Kennedy Lecture will be given by Irving Wladawsky-Berger of IBM fame, who was recently named Hispanic Engineer of the Year. For a list of speakers, see http://tapiaconference.org/2011/prog_sched.html. In addition, Tapia offers numerous networking opportunities with hundreds of attendees with common interests. Last conference about 50% of the attendees were female, 40% were African American, and 30% were Hispanic. Encouragingly, 82% agreed that attending Tapia 2009 increased their dedication to complete their degree and reaffirmed their belief that computing was the right career path for them. One reason is that Tapia helps them overcome the feelings of isolation sadly too common in our field. Thus, Tapia plays a similar role for under-represented minorities as the Grace Murray Hopper conference does for women.

This marks the ten-year anniversary of the conference, which has grown from 164 in 2001 to 389 in 2009. Our goal for 2011 is to attract even more students. To reach our goal, we need your help. Here is what we need you to do:

- Encourage your diversity undergrad and grad students (including women) to apply for a travel scholarship to Tapia; applications will be available at <http://tapiaconference.org/2011/scholarships.html>; and (DEADLINE HAS PASSED.), and
- Provide departmental funds (or raise funds from industry) to send people not funded by scholarships.

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Universities sending at least 10 non-scholarship attendees will be named Gold Tapia supporters. Universities sending at least 5 but fewer than 10 non-scholarships attendees will be named Silver Tapia supporters. If universities are below these levels, they can contribute \$550 per missing registration to make up the shortfall. Thus, a university sending 4 people can contribute an additional \$550 to reach Silver Tapia supporter or \$3300 to reach Gold Tapia supporter levels.

Gold academic supporters receive benefits that include:

- Exhibit space for materials and communicating with attendees,
- Resume database of scholarship recipients,
- The name of the university included on all press releases, and
- University name in all print materials and on website with link.

Silver academic supporters receive benefits that include:

- Participation in Opportunities Poster session, see <http://tapiaconference.org/2011/participate.html>,
- The name of the university included on all press releases, and
- University name in all print materials and on website with link.

¹While you're likely familiar with Tapia, the focus is development of both undergrad and grad students. The program includes stellar invited speakers, poster sessions, and a daylong Doctoral Consortium that provides a highly technical and supportive environment where PhD students discuss their research and receive feedback from experts. New this year is a focus on connections (between speakers and audience, among students and professionals, and beyond the conference via remote research collaborations). The program provides several opportunities to network and build relationships, including the opening opportunities for student poster reception, the student research poster session the second night, a connection "meetup" the third day, an afternoon outside activity, and the gala awards banquet and dance. To get the word out, we've already received commitments for op-ed pieces and advertisements in popular computing publications. I will personally contact the heads of all Californiacomputer science departments separately to ensure we get local students there.

Please contact Cynthia Lanius, Fundraising and Benefits Chair, (clanius@bellsouth.net) to learn more.

I hope your institution is able to participate, as it's going to be a memorable event. For example, we just announced that Bill Wulf—former president of the National Academy of Engineering—will be given the Tapia Prize.

Sincerely,

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