



**ACM RICHARD TAPIA CELEBRATION  
OF DIVERSITY IN COMPUTING**

**2015**

**PURDUE**  
UNIVERSITY

# ABOUT THE CELEBRATION

## ACM RICHARD TAPIA CELEBRATION OF DIVERSITY IN COMPUTING

The goal of the Tapia Conferences is to bring together undergraduate and graduate students, faculty, researchers, and professionals in computing from all backgrounds and ethnicities to:

- Celebrate the diversity that exists in computing;
- Connect with others with common backgrounds so as to create communities that extend beyond the conference;
- Obtain advice from and make contacts with computing leaders in academia and industry;
- Be inspired by great presentations and conversations.



# ABOUT THE CELEBRATION

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- Over 800 diverse students and faculty participated.
- Inspiring speakers included:
  - [Freeman A. Hrabowski, III](#), President, UMBC
  - [Dilma Da Silva](#), Department Head, Department of Computer Science and Engineering, Texas A&M University
  - [Jacky Wright](#), Vice President, Microsoft IT Strategic Enterprise Services
- List of participating schools <http://tapiaconference.org/supporters/>
- Conference Program <http://tapiaconference.org/schedule/>

# CS PARTICIPATION

## ACM RICHARD TAPIA CELEBRATION OF DIVERSITY IN COMPUTING

- **CS participated with 5 Graduate Students and 1 Staff**
- **We shared an Information Table with Technology**
- **We made contact with over 200 students and faculty from a variety of schools: from Harvey Mudd, over Georgia Tech and UMBC, to Moorehouse, and Spelman College**



# FUTURE PARTICIPATION

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- We hope to increase our participation in 2016 to 12 students and the budget to \$ 20,000
- 2016 Tapia Celebration of Diversity in Computing will be held in Austin, Texas



# STUDENT TESTIMONY

## ACM RICHARD TAPIA CELEBRATION OF DIVERSITY IN COMPUTING

Miguel Villareal-Vasquez:

ACM Richard Tapia Conference gave me the opportunity of being involved with some of the most outstanding scientists engaged in both developing computer-related sciences and extending high-quality education on these sciences to all groups without any kind of distinction. Besides nurturing myself with this stimulating and inclusive environment I also attended several talks in the areas of networking, cloud computing and security, which perfectly fit with my research interests. In addition, I had the chance of being in contact with very well-recognized companies in the career fair and know from them the different work opportunities they offer.



Simply, ACM Richard Tapia Conference is amazing!"

# STUDENT TESTIMONY

## ACM RICHARD TAPIA CELEBRATION OF DIVERSITY IN COMPUTING

Victor Santos:

My experience at the 2015 Richard Tapia Conference was outstanding. It was my first time and being honest, I was expecting another long talking conference with a lot of workshops from the morning to afternoon with not too much to see besides that. But this was not the case, at the Tapia Conference I found so many interesting people, so different, but at the same time pursuing the same goal, it was inspiring. I especially loved the organization and the networking among students and industry, pretty fun and professionally enriching. I even meet a few students from my home place (Puerto Rico). Without any doubt one of my favorite conference.

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I can't wait for next year!

# STUDENT TESTIMONY

## ACM RICHARD TAPIA CELEBRATION OF DIVERSITY IN COMPUTING

Miguel Rivera Mediavilla:

I enjoyed the rewarding opportunity to talk and give advice to students that were interested in graduate school. I attended a Cloud Computing Workshop on how research in the area has evolved and the current existing challenges. The most exciting part was being able to meet people from Colombia, Costa Rica, Panama, Mexico, Dominican Republic, Puerto Rico and the US. The rich cultural environment of the conference is invaluable, the different experiences, opinions and points of view that I was able to share with other participants related to computing fields broadened my understanding of the challenges and ideas that one can experience and produce.

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Attending the Richard Tapia Conference was a superb experience from beginning to end.