Foreword

Welcome to the 2005 Richard Tapia Celebration of Diversity in Computing Conference, the third in a biennial series, that celebrates diversity in the field of computing. Celebrating diversity means just that – appreciating the rich variation in our experiences, expertise and cultural backgrounds. This year’s theme is “A Diversity of Scholars – A Tapestry of Discovery.” The conference seeks to weave together these unique threads to create a tapestry of discovery and achievement.

The theme conjures up memories of my participation in Rice’s Spend A Summer With a Scientist program, precursor to Rice-Houston AGEP. At the beginning of the summer, Tapia brought together students of different genders and cultural backgrounds with research interests ranging from sociology to physics to applied mathematics. By the end of the summer, we, the students, discovered that outward differences masked common goals, fears and obstacles encountered in life and graduate school. From these experiences, we formed bonds that lasted beyond our graduate school days.

Mark Friedman, Technical Program Chair, has developed a strong and exciting program consisting of contributed papers from leading-edge researchers, workshops and panels on various technical issues as well as diversity and outreach activities, posters, Birds-of-a-Feather sessions and a doctoral consortium. Whether you are an established researcher, mid-career professional or student exploring your options in computing, we think you will find a session or topic that is useful and informative.

I hope the conference provides an opportunity to network and establish connections beyond your institution's walls. In addition, I challenge you to discover and appreciate the diversity among your fellow conference attendees.

Moreover, enjoy the sights and sounds of Albuquerque!

Pamela J. Williams
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