

The Hispanic Physicist

The Newsletter of the National Society of Hispanic Physicists

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Recruitment of Hispanics

The American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) recently asked the NSHP President for his opinion on how to recruit and retain Hispanics in science. This is a short version of the article published by AAAS-MSN.



Two pronounced characteristics of Hispanic students is their lack of exposure to higher education (most are the first in their families to attend a university) and their very limited exposure to science. For instance, during their pre-college years only a few have the opportunity to visit research centers or even universities. Thus, with no easy connection to science or to the world of scientists, few students are inclined to pursue science as a career. Under these circumstances, attracting and retaining students in science becomes a multidimensional problem. First, recruitment has to involve educating middle and high school students—and their teachers—about the role of a scientist in today's world. Students and their parents must be made aware of the basics, such as the average salaries of scientists and job opportunities in industry, government, and the military. In addition, it is also necessary for students to develop basic math and science skills. This requires direct university faculty members' intervention in the educational system for grades 7 through 12 (some say K through 12). Once at the university, students must be nurtured and trained to do research; this requires the formation of a faculty network to support these activities.

In the years since we were undergraduates, research education has gone from being an elitist activity catering to a selected few, to one attending to the masses. Our mentoring techniques should evolve so we can produce the quantity and quality of scientists needed by today's complex society.

Professor Jorge A. López is Chair and Shumaker Professor in the Department of Physics at the University of Texas, El Paso. His current research efforts focus on nuclear theory. For further information, please see <http://physics.utep.edu/LopezNYT/Jorge.html>.

Highlights from the NSHP Board meeting at UT Brownsville, 10/11/2002



- **NSHP** is to hold elections before the end of 2002.
- **NSHP** no longer has a legal status. Officers will look for legal help.
- Ernst reported on the recent SACNAS meeting in Anaheim, California. **NSHP** organized a physics session and also participated in the Conversation with Scientists.
- Next year's **NSHP** Board meeting might be held in conjunction with the SACNAS meeting in Albuquerque in October.
- A second **NSHP** meeting is also suggested in California or Florida with the Southeast Section or the California Section of the APS.
- **NSHP** Education Officer, Juan Burciaga is organizing a joint meeting with AAPT in Austin in January. Information can be found at <http://www.aapt.org>.
- Future **NSHP** projects:
 - Research Experience for Undergraduates to recruit minority students.
 - **NSHP** participation at a meeting of the American Astronomical Society this summer in Nashville.
- Financial report: we do not have any money in hand!
- Dues will be solicited for 2003.

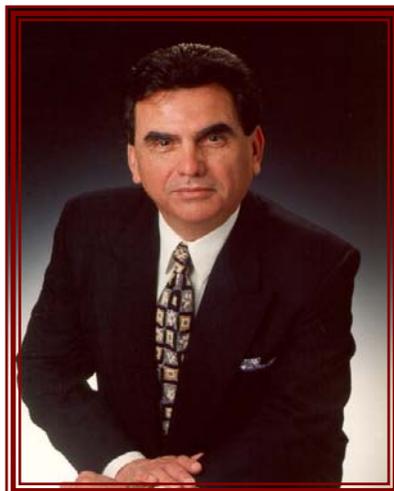
Mario, gracias for a great meeting!

Research Profile: Miguel Rios

Miguel Rios completed his Ph.D. in Experimental Nuclear Physics at the University of Maryland launching a formidable career that spans science and business.

In the 1980's, Rios left Sandia National Laboratories to start his own company ORION International Technologies, Inc. in Albuquerque, a defense contractor engaged in fundamental research; systems analysis, engineering, design, fabrication, test and evaluation and program planning and management. Recently, Dr. Rios was appointed as Chairman of the Board of the National Center for Genome Resources, NCGR, in Santa Fe, N.M., a nonprofit bioinformatics and computational biology center. Its key scientific direction includes development in systems biology and novel methods for integrating software applications and databases.

In May, Miguel Rios received the Distinguished Alumni Award from the Physics Department at the University of Maryland.



News you can use



Summer Science Instructors

The Johns Hopkins University/Center for Talented Youth encourages outstanding science teachers to apply to teach above grade level courses such as Fast-Paced H.S. Physics, Chemistry, and Biology, as well as Flight Science and various Engineering courses. CTY offers intensive 3-week summer residential academic programs to gifted and talented students in 5th-10th grades. Instructors are assigned a Teaching Assistant, 15-18 exceptional students, and a comfortable supplies budget. Dates for 2003 sessions are June 29-July 18, and July 20-August 8.

Salary: \$1800 - \$2800 per session plus room and board on a college campus

More information: Call (410) 516-0053 or visit www.cty.jhu.edu for more information and an application.

Recruitment Opens: January 29, 2003

Recruitment Closes: Until all positions have been filled

 American Association
of Physics Teachers



AAPT Scholarship for Future High-School Physics Teachers

AAPT offers a \$2,000 scholarship for future high-school physics teachers. This scholarship is available only to U.S. citizens attending a U.S. school. Undergraduate students in, or planning to enter physics teacher preparation curricula and high-school seniors planning to enter such curricula are eligible. The stipend of up to \$2,000 is granted for four years. Applications will be accepted at any time online at: www.aapt.org/pdfs/lotze.pdf or can request materials from: AAPT Programs Department, One Physics Ellipse, College Park, MD 20740-3845; 301-209-3344; aapt-prog@aapt.org.

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