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SHPE Star of Today
SHPE Star of Tomorrow
Dr. Ellen Ochoa Award
Renaissance Engineer Award
Government Agency of the Year
Company of the Year
Rodrigo Garcia Founder’s Award
Jaime Oaxaca Award

Thank you to all of the volunteers who devoted their time and energy to review the award submissions!
PROFESSIONAL ROLE MODEL AWARD

Jasmin Vanessa Guerrero
Raytheon Technologies

Jasmin Vanessa Guerrero is a Systems Engineer at Raytheon Technologies in El Segundo, CA. She is pursuing a M.S. in Systems Architecture Engineering at USC, and holds a B.S. in Chemical Engineering from UC Irvine. Working in the Secure Sensor Solutions business area, she supports reliability, requirement verification and failure analyses for GPS systems. Her attention to detail and strategic approach has led her to be a reformer of the team’s previous process flow. As a SHPE Lifetime Member and Raytheon Hispanic Organization for Leadership and Advancement (HOLA) Leader, she helps others to realize their fullest potential.

STUDENT ROLE MODEL - GRADUATE AWARD

Adrian Dávila
Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University

Adrian Dávila is a Materials Science and Engineering PhD student at Virginia Tech, conducting research on twinning-induced and transformation-induced plasticity steels. Adrian is a GEM National Consortium Fellow and a Graduate Assistant in Areas of National Need Fellow. He received his B.S. in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Houston in 2012 and his P.E. license in 2017. Prior to starting his PhD, Adrian worked for Schlumberger and 3M. He has been a member of SHPE since 2018 and currently serves as both Region 4 Graduate Representative and the SHPE National Graduate Committee Co-Chair.
STUDENT ROLE MODEL - UNDERGRADUATE AWARD

Andrea Lastra
University of Houston

Andrea Lastra is a Senior majoring in Mechanical Engineering and minoring in Mathematics at the University of Houston. Since becoming a SHPE member as a Freshman in 2018, she has been active through numerous events and being in leadership roles such as Secretary, President, and currently as Region 5’s Regional Student Representative. Andrea has interned at GE Aviation as a Technical Intern, Lockheed Martin as an Electro-Mechanical Engineer, and now at NASA as a Project Management & L6σ Intern. Lastly, she thanks everyone who has supported her along this journey, si SHPE puede!

CORPORATE ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Lesly Caridad VanDen Heuvel
Kimberly-Clark

Lesly Caridad VanDen Heuvel works in Digital Technology Solutions in Manufacturing at Kimberly-Clark (KC). She researches and studies industry revolution 4.0, smart manufacturing, and supply chain transformation. Recently she’s been focusing on ‘Artificial Intelligence’ and ‘Digital Twins’, and how to apply these into the supply chain. She is a member of the Latin American Network (LAND) and Society of Women Engineers (SWE). She has volunteered in countless ways including mentoring new employees from Puerto Rico and Venezuela. In 2018, she received the “KC Working Mother of the Year” award, and was featured in the ‘Working Mother Magazine’ representing Kimberly-Clark.
**SHPE STAR OF TODAY**

**Dr. Carlos Alberto Escobar**

*General Motors*

Dr. Carlos Alberto Escobar was born in Ciudad Juárez Chihuahua, Mexico, where he studied Industrial Engineering at the Instituto Tecnológico de Ciudad Juárez. He obtained his first master’s degree in Quality Engineering at Tecnológico de Monterrey and, later, his second in Industrial Engineering at New Mexico State University. In 2015, Dr. Escobar became a Researcher at General Motors in the Manufacturing System Research Lab. He obtained his PhD in 2019 while working there full-time. He is also an accomplished athlete, becoming the National Wushu Champion seven times and winning several medals for Mexico at the World Games and Panamerican Championships.

**SHPE STAR OF TOMORROW**

**Monica Ochoa**

*The Boeing Company*

Monica Ochoa attended the University of Notre Dame where she joined the Rocket Team and solidified her passion for space exploration. She became a first generation college graduate in 2018 with her B.S. in Aerospace Engineering. Monica realized her dream when she started as a Loads and Dynamics Engineer with The Boeing Company on the Space Launch System program. She was later selected for the prestigious Engineering Career Foundation Program, a two-year rotation program that develops early career engineers. Monica recently earned an M.S. Astronautical Engineering from the University of Southern California, and is currently working on an International Space Station team.
DR. ELLEN OCHOA AWARD

Melanie L. Weber
The Boeing Company

Melanie L. Weber made history in December 2019 when the Boeing CST-100 Starliner launched from Kennedy Space Center on its orbital flight test. She was the first woman—and the first Hispanic—to lead a launch pad team on the day of launch for a human rated Spacecraft. Melanie has been a Structural and Mechanical Design Engineer supporting the Boeing CST-100 Starliner spacecraft program since 2011. She is currently the CST-100 Starliner Subsystem Lead for Crew and Cargo Accommodations, and the Boeing lead for the Launch Pad Team at Cape Canaveral. Melanie joined SHPE in 1999, becoming a lifetime member in 2007.

RENAISSANCE ENGINEER AWARD

Fernando Rosario
Exeqpath

Fernando Rosario’s career trajectory includes 20+ years of consulting experience as an executive with Accenture, Chief Technology Officer (CTO) for a commercial real estate company, leading the North America Diversity recruiting efforts for a Fortune 500 management consulting firm, Head of Engineering for a LATAM technology provider, and serving as board member for several non-profit organizations. He founded Exeqpath to bring inspiring and innovative leadership and professional development solutions to corporations, nonprofits, and individuals. He is known as a high-powered speaker and executive coach who inspires from the heart. His clients include Fortune 500 corporations, universities, start-ups, and non-profit organizations.
GOVERNMENT AGENCY OF THE YEAR

Air Force Research Laboratory

Air Force Research Laboratory (AFRL) includes diversity, equity, inclusion and accessibility as mission imperatives. It aims to ensure all airmen, uniform and non-uniform, have the right environment, resources, and support they need to thrive and succeed. Through the years, employees of the command have served in SHPE leadership roles both at the regional level and chapter level. Since 2007, AFRL has worked closely with SHPE as an IPC partner to provide opportunities to its members, supporting the Hispanic Community around the U.S. Recently they awarded a $40 million diversity in engineering grant to Ohio State University to fund a six-year multipart program, to provide minority STEM undergrad and graduate students with science and engineering research internships at AFRL.

COMPANY OF THE YEAR

General Electric

Since 1994, GE has been a constant and committed partner to SHPE including as an IPC member. They are invested in building a more diverse workforce and a more inclusive workplace by focusing on transparency, accountability, and community. GE aims to foster a culture of inclusivity, where everyone feels empowered to do their best work because they feel accepted, respected, and that they belong. This is evident in the way which the GE recruitment team goes beyond the career fairs in engaging with SHPE. Their passion and efforts are seen year-round in their campus engagements and outreach. For years this group has given countless hours to providing opportunities to SHPE members, and being a part of their preparation and journeys to succeed.
About the Award

In 1973, Rodrigo “Rod” Garcia was working as a civil engineer for the City of Los Angeles. When Rod was at work, he was a brown face in a sea of white. Recognizing the disparity and wanting to make a change, Rod and a cohort of fellow Hispanic engineers who shared his concerns officially formed the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers (SHPE), a nationwide professional association now serving more than 13,000 members.

Over close to 50 years, Rod’s limitless compassion and unwavering service to others has been critical to the success of SHPE. This award honors his accomplishments and memorializes him as the guiding light of the organization that is leading Hispanics in STEM.
Ernesto "Ernie" Felix
Intel

Ernesto "Ernie" Felix received a scholarship to attend Arizona State University, where he earned a Bachelor of Science in Management and Economics. Ernesto has held numerous positions over the past 26 years at Intel, including Latin America HR Manager. He also held senior level positions in Diversity & Inclusion where he developed the strategy to hire, develop, grow, and retain Hispanics. During this time, he was introduced to SHPE, and loved its mission. He held leadership positions at SHPE for eight years, first leading the IPC, followed by service on the SHPE Board of Directors as their Treasurer.
Thank You to Our IPC Members
SEE YOU AT THE STARTING LINE

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SOCIETY OF HISPANIC PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS