

**CONTACT: Kristina Ruidas  
Communications Coordinator**

Phone: (323) 262-0997

Fax: (323) 262-0946

E-mail: kristina@henaac.org

July 26, 2005

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**HENAAC 2005 WINNERS ANNOUNCED**

HENAAC's Board of Directors and TECHNICA™ Magazine proudly announce the 2005 HENAAC Award Winners. Winners in each category represent this nation's best and brightest engineers and scientists. They were selected by the HENAAC Selection Committee, an independent group of representatives from industry, government, military and academia. The Selection Committee convened in Anaheim, CA, and was chaired by Kuei-wu Tsai, Ph.D., Dean of the College of Engineering, Computer Science, and Technology at the California State University, Los Angeles, HENAAC's 2005 Academic Host. The winners will be honored at the HENAAC Awards Show on October 7, 2005, in Anaheim, CA during the 17<sup>th</sup> Annual HENAAC Conference, October 6 – 8, 2005.

**Hispanic Engineer of the Year**

Alphonso Diaz  
Associate Administrator  
Science Mission Directorate  
NASA

**Executive Excellence**

Roberto Perez  
Senior Vice President  
Global Manufacturing, Integrated Supply  
Chain Operations  
  
Motorola, Inc.

\*\*\*

**Military- Executive Excellence**

Rear Admiral George Mayer  
Chief, Naval Air Training  
  
U.S. Navy

**Outstanding Technical Achievement**

*Industry*  
  
Renato Recio  
Distinguished Engineer  
Systems and Technology Group  
  
IBM Corporation

\*\*\*

*National Laboratories*

Maria Ghirardi, Ph.D.  
Senior Biochemical Scientist II

National Renewable Energy Laboratories

## HENAAC 2005 WINNERS (continued)

### Chairman's Award

Mark Allan Perez  
Director of Program Management  
Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transit  
Authority

### Pioneer Award

Frank Flores  
Vice President, Engineering, Logistics and  
Technology  
Northrop Grumman Corporation

### Albert V. Baez Award

Rafael Talavera  
Design Engineer Staff  
Life Science Division Support  
Lockheed Martin Space Operations

### Entrepreneur

Rey Almodovar, P.E.  
President and CEO  
Intuitive Research and Technology  
Corporation

### Professional Achievement

Jaime Luis Moya  
Group Manager  
Environmental Safety and Health  
Sandia National Laboratories

\*\*\*

Ana Piqueras Davis  
Production Leader, Epoxy 3  
Dow Chemical Company

\*\*\*

### Military - Professional Achievement

Luis A. Ruiz, P.E.  
Chief, Geotechnical Branch  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

### Most Promising Engineer

*Advanced Degree*

Patricio Vela, Ph.D.  
Assistant Professor  
Georgia Institute of Technology

\*\*\*

Carol Hernandez, Ph.D.  
Senior Engineer  
Firmware Development

IBM Corporation

## HENAAC 2005 WINNERS (continued)

### **Most Promising Engineer**

*Undergraduate Degree*

Bernadette Rabago Melancon  
Hydrocarbons Improvement Engineer

Union Carbide Corporation  
-A Dow Chemical Company

### **Santiago Rodriguez Diversity Award**

Mark J. Leon  
Director of Education

NASA Ames Research Center

\*\*\*

Aaron J. Maestas  
Sr. Mechanical Engineer I with Honors

Raytheon Company

### **Military- Most Promising Engineer**

Captain Eduardo D. Aguilar  
Chief GPS IIF Space Vehicle Integration

U.S. Air Force Space Command

### **Education**

Carlos G. Gutierrez, Ph.D.  
Professor  
Chemistry and Biochemistry

California State University, Los Angeles

### **Community Service**

Manny Sanchez  
Systems Engineer Staff  
F-117 Nighthawk System Engineering Requirements and Integration Integrated Product  
Team

Lockheed Martin Aeronautics Company

**Mission Statement:** To enlighten our nation about the achievements of Hispanics in engineering, science, technology, and math; to motivate and educate more students to pursue careers in these fields; to increase the role the Hispanic community plays in maintaining America's status as the world's technology leader.

For more information about the 2005 HENAAC Winners or the HENAAC Conference, please call our office at (323) 262-0997, or visit our web site at [www.henaac.org](http://www.henaac.org).

###