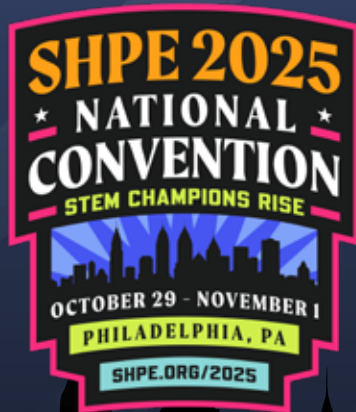


2025 STAR AWARD CELEBRATIONS



Excellence in STEM Luncheon
Thursday, October 30, 12:00 - 1:30pm
Terrace Ballroom, PCC

STAR Awards Gala
Friday, October 31, 7:00 - 9:00 PM
Terrace Ballroom, PCC



ABOUT THE STAR AWARDS

SHPE proudly recognizes and celebrates its SHPE Technical Achievement and Recognition (STAR) Award recipients each year during the SHPE National Convention at the Excellence in STEM Luncheon and the STAR Awards Gala.

These prestigious awards celebrate exceptional professionals and students whose dedication, commitment, and selfless efforts have advanced Hispanics in STEM careers. The STAR Awards also honor a company and a government agency that have demonstrated significant, measurable, and visible support for SHPE's mission and programs. Thank you for joining us at the National Convention as we celebrate the achievements of all our distinguished honorees!

Do you know someone who should be honored with a STAR Award? Please look for the nomination application in early Spring. If you would like further details, please email starawards@shpe.org.

Excellence in STEM Luncheon Program

STAR Awards Gala Program

EXCELLENCE IN STEM LUNCHEON AGENDA

WELCOME

Educator Achievement Award - K-12

Educator Achievement Award - Higher Education

Outstanding Chapter Advisor Award

Community Service Award

Climate Sustainability Award

Entrepreneur Award

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Award

STAR of Tomorrow Award - Government

STAR of Today Award - Government

Young Investigator Award

Hispanic ERG of the Year



HONOREES



Educator Achievement Award - K-12

Edgar Monroy

Hayward Unified School District

Edgar Monroy is an award-winning STEM educator with over a decade of experience empowering underrepresented students through hands-on engineering education. He teaches Project Lead The Way Engineering courses at Bret Harte Middle School and Hayward High School, where he co-founded the FemMakers Club and connects students with mentors, competitions, and career pathways. Named PLTW National Middle School Teacher of the Year in 2021 and honored as a San Francisco 49ers Teacher of the Game, Edgar champions equity in STEM while mentoring new teachers and expanding engineering pathways across Hayward Unified School District.



Educator Achievement Award - Higher Education

Rodrigo Martinez-Duarte

Clemson University

Dr. Rodrigo Martinez-Duarte is an Associate Professor of Mechanical and Automotive Engineering at Clemson University, where he also serves as a Faculty Scholar in the School of Health Research and advisor to the SHPE student chapter. An internationally recognized researcher and pioneer of carbon-electrode dielectrophoresis, he leads the Multiscale Manufacturing Laboratory, advancing innovations in healthcare diagnostics and sustainable carbonaceous materials. A passionate educator, Rodrigo has revamped and introduced courses in manufacturing and micro/nanofabrication. He received Clemson's highest teaching and service honors, including the Provost Senior Tenured Outstanding Teaching Award and the Martin Luther King Jr. Award for Excellence in Service. A past president of the AES Electrophoresis Society, and a Fulbright Scholar, he exemplifies SHPE's mission.



HONOREES



Outstanding Chapter Advisor Award

Christian David Guzman

University of Massachusetts, Amherst

Dr. Christian David Guzman is a Civil and Environmental Engineering professor at the University of Massachusetts Amherst, where his research focuses on soil and water resources at watershed scales that support food, energy, water, and community needs. Collaborating across disciplines, he studies soil surface dynamics, water quality, and socio-hydrological development. Passionate about serving marginalized and underserved communities, Christian integrates scholarship with impact, ensuring his work benefits both local and global communities. As SHPE Chapter Advisor, he empowers students through mentorship, research opportunities, and leadership development.



HONOREES



Community Service Award

Martin J. Enriquez

HP Inc.

Born in Jalisco, Mexico, and raised in a California migrant camp, Martin Enriquez is the first in his family to graduate college, earning degrees in computer science from UC Santa Barbara and CSU Northridge. He is a seasoned Global Software Technology Manager with HP, overseeing worldwide software delivery for millions of customers, leading digital transformation, driving product innovation and building strong, highly engaged teams. A lifelong advocate for equity in STEM, Martin has founded and led multiple SHPE and Hispanic outreach organizations and currently serves on the HP-SHPE Leadership Team and California K-16 Central Coast Collaborative. He continues to inspire future generations through mentorship and service.



HONOREES



Climate Sustainability Award

Yari Escobar

Jacobs

Yarizamar “Yari” Escobar is a global transformation leader at Jacobs with a background in civil engineering and a passion for building resilient, equitable, and sustainable communities. She drives enterprise-wide initiatives that deliver measurable outcomes in process optimization, digital adoption, and organizational change. As Global Chair of Enlace, Jacobs’ Latino employee network, Yari leads 2,500+ members worldwide in advancing culture, professional development, and environmental stewardship. A proud first-generation American, she champions Human ROI—investing in people as the most powerful driver of lasting impact—while advocating for community resilience and sustainability beyond her professional role.



HONOREES



Entrepreneur Award

Paola M. Santana

Glass

Paola Santana is a Dominican entrepreneur, lawyer, and tech innovator redefining how technology serves society. She co-founded Matternet, the first FAA-approved drone delivery platform in U.S. airspace, and now leads Social Glass, an AI-powered platform transforming government operations. Earlier in her career, she helped establish the Dominican Republic's first Constitutional Court and has since collaborated with NASA and advised the FAA and U.S. Department of Transportation on drone policy. With advanced degrees from institutions worldwide, Paola continues to pioneer equitable, future-focused solutions at the intersection of law, technology, and public infrastructure.



HONOREES



Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Award

Edisson M. Flores

Ardagh Group

With over 30 years in engineering and manufacturing, Edison Flores is Vice President of Operations at Ardagh Group, where he leads strategic operations across North America. Since 2022, his people-first, data-driven approach has delivered a 46% reduction in OSHA-recordable injuries and a 23% decrease in cost of poor quality. A native of the Dominican Republic, Edison holds a B.S. in Electromechanical Engineering and an MBA from Colorado State University. Known for building inclusive, high-performing teams, he is also a mentor, community leader, and advocate for safety, quality, and sustainability.



HONOREES



STAR of Tomorrow Award - Government

Dr. Rachid Darbali-Zamora

Sandia National Laboratories

Born in Jayuya, Puerto Rico, Dr. Rachid Darbali-Zamora turned childhood experiences with repeated power outages into a career dedicated to resilient energy systems. After earning his B.S., M.S., and Ph.D. in Electrical Engineering from the University of Puerto Rico–Mayagüez, he joined Sandia National Laboratories, where he develops renewable energy and microgrid solutions for disadvantaged communities. His work has advanced hurricane-resilient power systems in Puerto Rico and beyond. A passionate mentor, Rachid also teaches and inspires Hispanic, Asian, and Native American students, championing diversity, equity, and sustainability in STEM.



HONOREES



STAR of Today Award - Government

J. Felipe Ruiz

Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Laboratory

Juan Felipe Ruiz is a Senior Mechanical Engineer at the Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Laboratory, where he serves as Chief Engineer of the Mechanical Systems Group and Rotor Lead for NASA's Dragonfly mission to Titan. He has contributed to multiple flight missions, including Dragonfly, the GUSTO Observatory, and the Parker Solar Probe. A dedicated educator and mentor, Felipe has taught over 500 graduate students in spacecraft engineering at Johns Hopkins University and actively promotes STEM to young students. A proud Colombian-American, he continues to inspire future engineers through outreach, mentorship, and technical excellence. Felipe holds a B.S. in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Texas at Austin, and an M.S. in Space Systems Engineering from Johns Hopkins University.



Young Investigator Award

Daniel Oropeza

University of California, Santa Barbara

Dr. Daniel Oropeza is an Assistant Professor in the Materials Department at UC Santa Barbara, where he leads the Materials and Manufacturing for Aerospace and Extremes (MMAX) Lab. His research explores advanced manufacturing of refractory metals, ceramics, and functional materials for aerospace and extreme environments. Previously a NASA Postdoctoral Fellow at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory, Daniel earned his Ph.D. in Mechanical Engineering from MIT, M.S. in Aeronautics and Astronautics from Stanford, and B.S. in Aerospace Engineering from UT Austin. A recipient of the 2024 American Ceramics Society Global Young Investigator Award, he is also an active SHPE member and mentor.



Sandia National Laboratories

Hispanic ERG of the Year

Sandia National Laboratories Hispanic Outreach for Leadership and Awareness (HOLA)

Founded in 1982, Sandia National Laboratories' Hispanic Outreach for Leadership and Awareness (HOLA) ERG has grown to over 800 members and is one of the lab's most active employee groups. HOLA drives professional development through monthly meetings, mentoring, and leadership networking while advancing STEM outreach via hallmark programs like Noche de Ciencias and Manos, which have reached thousands of students. Each year, HOLA also leads Sandia's Hispanic Heritage Month celebrations, showcasing culture, innovation, and community partnerships. With its strong advocacy, outreach, and mentorship, HOLA continues to strengthen Hispanic representation and leadership in STEM.

STAR AWARDS GALA AGENDA

WELCOME

Role Model Award - Undergraduate

Role Model Award - Graduate

Role Model Award - Professional

Innovator Award

Managerial Excellence Award - Corporate

STAR of Tomorrow Award - Corporate

STAR of Today Award - Corporate

Executive Achievement Award - Corporate

Dr. Ellen Ochoa Award

Rubén Hinojosa STEM Champion Award

Academic Institution of the Year

Company of the Year

Rodrigo Garcia Founder's Award

Jaime Oaxaca Award



HONOREES



Role Model Award - Undergraduate

Andrea Godoy
University of Miami

Born in Caracas, Venezuela, Andrea Godoy is a first-generation student in the University of Miami's 5-year BS/MS program, recently completing her B.S. in Biomedical Engineering and now pursuing her M.S. in Industrial Engineering. With a near-perfect GPA, Andrea has earned national scholarships, led the revival of honor societies, and represented SHPE at the White House and on Capitol Hill. As SHPE Region 7 Student Representative, she expanded resources and support for 25+ student chapters, while also excelling in biomedical research and internships at Medtronic and Stryker. She continues to champion mentorship, equity, and innovation in STEM.



HONOREES



Role Model Award - Graduate

Jose Luiz Sarabia Torres

San Jose State University

Jose Luiz Sarabia Torres, a first-generation college student, earned his B.S. in Mechanical Engineering from San Jose State University (SJSU) in 2024 and is now pursuing his M.S. at SJSU. Inspired by SHPE's mission, he served as President of SOLES (a joint SHPE-MAES chapter), gaining recognition at university, regional, and national levels. Today, as part of the SHPE Silicon Valley Professional Chapter, he leads outreach events such as Noche de Ciencias and SciencePalooza, inspiring hundreds of families. Passionate about mentorship, Jose works to ensure Hispanic students and parents feel supported in pursuing STEM careers.



Role Model Award - Professional

Andreína Vivas Thomas

Lenovo

Born in Caracas, Venezuela, Andreína Vivas Thomas is an Advisory Software Engineer at Lenovo, where she develops innovative cloud infrastructure solutions on Microsoft Azure. Since joining Lenovo in 2017, she has advanced from Associate to Advisory Engineer, contributing to products that generate over \$70M annually and leading six patent submissions. A champion for women in STEM, she secured Lenovo's sponsorship of Girls Who Code and organizes its annual Summer Immersion Program. A dedicated SHPE leader, Andreína has served as President of SHPE Puget Sound and co-leads Lenovo's representation on SHPE's Industry Partnership Council.



HONOREES



Innovator Award

Angel F. Porras
Ford Motor Company

Born in Guatemala City, Angel F. Porras immigrated to the U.S. in the late 1990s, overcoming language and cultural barriers to pursue his passion for engineering. After earning degrees from UC Berkeley and San Jose State University, he joined Ford Motor Company through the FCG program and discovered his calling in electric vehicle innovation. Now Program Manager for Electrified Vehicle Controls, Angel holds nearly 80 patents spanning EV charging, thermal management, and intelligent scheduling. His work is shaping the future of sustainable transportation while inspiring the next generation of engineers.



HONOREES



Managerial Excellence Award - Corporate

Mercedes Valladares

Honeywell

Born in Cuba and raised in Miami, Florida, Mercedes Valladares immigrated to the U.S. on a Freedom Flight in 1967. A first-generation Latina engineer, she earned her B.S. in Industrial and Systems Engineering from the University of Florida and joined Honeywell in 1985. Over her 40-year career, she has advanced into senior leadership, currently serving as Senior Director of the Sensing, Guidance, and Navigation organization, leading 500+ engineers and a multimillion-dollar budget. A champion of inclusion and diversity, Mercedes has driven innovations in test process management, saving Honeywell over \$100M, while mentoring the next generation of aerospace leaders.



HONOREES



STAR of Tomorrow Award - Corporate

Isabel Meza

Dow Inc.

Originally from Ecuador, Dr. Isabel Meza is a Senior Research Specialist at Dow, where she advances silicone resin technologies and supports new product innovation. A first-generation scholar and single mother, she earned her Ph.D. in Environmental Engineering from the University of New Mexico, conducting research on groundwater remediation for Native communities. Isabel has authored seven peer-reviewed publications, holds two patent applications, and is active in ACS, SWE, and multiple outreach programs. At Dow, she mentors young scientists while championing women in STEM through leadership in the Women Chemists Committee and other professional networks.



HONOREES



STAR of Today Award - Corporate

Dr. Karin Rudman Prieto, PhD

Medtronic PLC

Born and raised in Venezuela, Dr. Karin Rudman Prieto earned her Ph.D. in Materials Science Engineering from Arizona State University before building a diverse career in research, manufacturing, and medical technology. Since joining Medtronic in 2018, she has become a sought-after technical leader, leveraging her expertise in materials science and PCB manufacturing to solve complex challenges. Beyond her technical impact, Karin champions inclusion as chair of Medtronic's Hispanic Latino Network in Tempe, advancing professional development, mentoring, and STEM outreach. She is a past recipient of Medtronic's Technical Contributor of the Year Award and a dedicated advocate for diversity in STEM.



HONOREES



Executive Achievement Award - Corporate

Calline Sanchez

IBM

With 25 years at IBM, Calline Sanchez has held multiple executive leadership roles and currently serves as Vice President of TLS Lifecycle Management, where she drives innovation, revenue growth, and client success. She is also IBM's Senior State Executive for Arizona and New Mexico and site leader for Tucson and Phoenix. A former leader of IBM's Enterprise Storage Systems and Global Offerings teams, Calline has guided international portfolios and engineering organizations. Recognized as Woman of the Year by Greater Tucson Leadership in 2024 and Hispanic Businesswoman of the Year in 2018, she is also deeply engaged in state and community leadership.



Dr. Ellen Ochoa Award

Sandra Martínez-Compton

The Boeing Company

Born in Bogotá, Colombia, Sandra Martínez-Compton immigrated to the U.S. to pursue her dream of becoming an engineer, earning her B.S. in Mechanical Engineering from Florida International University and later an M.S. in Technical Management from Embry-Riddle. Since joining Boeing in 2005, she has advanced into senior leadership, managing multimillion-dollar budgets and leading teams that drive innovation in aircraft interiors, structures, and safety. A dedicated SHPE and GMIS leader, Sandra has championed Boeing's diversity efforts, mentored dozens of engineers, and revitalized the Boeing Familia BRG. She also serves her community through STEM outreach and nonprofit leadership.



Rubén Hinojosa STEM Champion Award

Congresswoman Luz Rivas

US Congress

Congresswoman Luz Rivas, the only Latina engineer in Congress, is a lifelong advocate for equity in STEM. Born and raised in Los Angeles, she earned an electrical engineering degree from MIT and later founded DIY Girls, inspiring thousands of young women to explore technology and engineering. As a California State Assemblymember, she championed access to computer science and climate education. Today, in the U.S. Congress, she continues to break barriers, advancing policies that expand opportunities for underrepresented communities in STEM and empowering future generations of Hispanic innovators.



Academic Institution of the Year Virginia Tech

Virginia Tech is committed to empowering students to reach their fullest potential—academically, professionally, and personally. Guided by the motto *Ut Prosim* (That I May Serve), students strengthen leadership skills and give back to their communities. The university offers a wide range of student organizations, including SHPE, which currently has 58 members supported by longtime advisor Claudia Brodtkin and engineering advisor David Gonzalez. As part of CAMEO, SHPE members connect with industry professionals, engage in outreach, and access travel funding for conferences. Virginia Tech’s collaborative, hands-on approach ensures graduates are adaptable leaders prepared to innovate and make a global impact.



Medtronic

Company of the Year **Medtronic PLC**

Medtronic PLC has demonstrated an extraordinary commitment to SHPE and the Hispanic STEM community, investing over \$2 million in four years to support professional development, mentoring, and internships. Together with SHPE, Medtronic co-created the groundbreaking InternSHPE program, providing wraparound programming that has impacted 200 members from 88 universities and resulted in more than 30 interns launching full-time careers at Medtronic. Nearly 200 Medtronic engineers have mentored participants, ensuring their success from day one. In addition, the Medtronic Foundation supported ScholarSHPE, awarding \$25,000 scholarships to 32 members. Medtronic's dedication continues to transform lives and strengthen pathways for Hispanic leaders in STEM.



HONOREES



Rodrigo Garcia Founder's Award

Jay Flores

Invent The Change LLC

Jay Flores is a Global STEM Ambassador, founder of Invent The Change, and author of the bilingual children's book *Engineer Someday!*—which he will read and sign at this year's Convention, donating \$2 from each sale to ScholarSHPE. A SHPE Lifetime Member, former Region 7 Vice President, and National Board Member (2009–2012), Jay has been a SHPE Creator, Noche de Ciencias host, and leader of SHPE's virtual "Fit Fridays" series during COVID. Through Discovery Education's Mystery Science, PBS's Make48, and his live show *It's Not Magic, It's Science!*, he makes STEM fun, accessible, and inspiring for future innovators.



HONOREES



Jaime Oaxaca Award

Jubencio Linares

John Deere

Born in Idaho to immigrant parents from Guanajuato and Jalisco, Mexico, Jubencio Linares turned early challenges with language and math into a passion for engineering. Determined to honor his parents' sacrifices, he persevered through multiple rejections before earning internships at John Deere, leading to a full-time role as a powertrain engineer. Today, he drives innovation leveraging dynamic systems modeling and simulations across global construction equipment programs while fostering engagement and inclusion as the founder of HOLA Dubuque and past chair of John Deere SHPE. Dedicated to mentoring and STEM outreach, Jubencio works to inspire the next generation of engineers and leaders through his efforts and as president of the Eastern Iowa SHPE Professional Chapter.



"I'm proud of the purpose my career brings, advancing the future of technology."



Analuisa (She/her)
UI/UX Designer
Austin, USA



Where your passion meets real impact.

You want to make a difference. We give you the space to do it on real challenges, with teammates who care as much as you do.

Because the next breakthrough starts with people like you. Bold thinkers. Sharp problem solvers. Purpose driven doers.

Join us and help shape a healthier, more hopeful world at jobs.merck.com



THANK YOU TO OUR INDUSTRY PARTNERSHIP COUNCIL



As of 9/30/25

THANK YOU TO OUR ACADEMIC PARTNERSHIP COUNCIL



As of 9/30/25



**SAVE
THE
DATE!**



SHPE 2026

**STEM
FOR THE
BOLD**



**NATIONAL
CONVENTION**

INDIANAPOLIS, IN

**OCTOBER 28 - 31
SHPE.ORG/2026**

SEE YOU IN **INDIANAPOLIS** IN **2026!**

→ OCTOBER 28-31

BOLD MINDS.

BIG FUTURES.

BOLD SOLUTIONS.

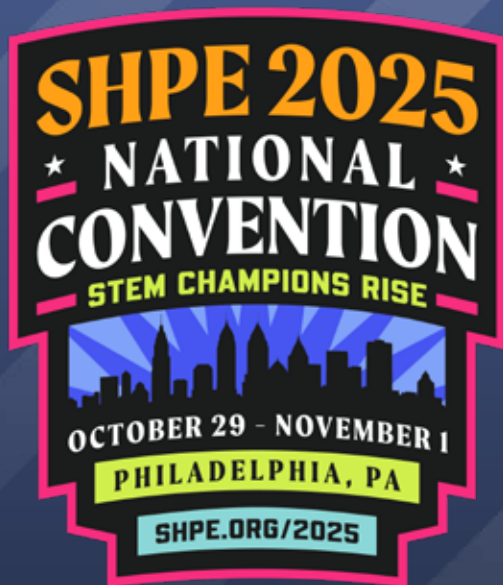
LASTING IMPACT.

BE BOLD

SIGN UP TO BE NOTIFIED.





2026 NATIONAL CONVENTION




SHPE: Leading Hispanics in STEM
13181 Crossroads Parkway North, Suite 220
City of Industry, CA 91746

P: 323.725.3970 | F: 323.725.0316
starawards@shpe.org
shpe.org

@SHPENATIONAL 
@SHPENATIONAL 

@SHPENATIONAL 

@SHPE 

@SHPENATIONAL 