

1014-Y3-1776      **Richard A. Tapia\*** (rtapia@rice.edu), Center for Excellence and Equity in Education, Rice University, 6100 Main St., Houston, Texas 77005. *The Center for Excellence and Equity in Education at Rice University: Successes in the Recruitment, Retention, and Matriculation of Minority Scholars.*

The Center for Excellence and Equity in Education (CEEE) was established at Rice University in 1995 with a mission is to promote greater participation of underrepresented groups in the sciences, and to encourage academic excellence for all. The establishment of the center has been critical to the success of the faculty, staff, and students involved, providing a focal point for proposals, activities, and community building.

The impact of this concentrated effort to attract and retain minority scholars has been dramatic at Rice. In 1991–1994, there were no minority graduates science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) disciplines. Today, in 13 different STEM departments at Rice, expected graduation of minority Ph.D. scholars is: 13 in AY 2005–2006, 16 in AY 2006–2007, and 12 in 2007–2008, adding 41 minority Ph.D.s to the national STEM community.

This success is the result of the work of our talented and dedicated students. In support, the CEEE provides encouragement and opportunities, including invited speaker series, national conference participation, extracurricular education, and professional development. The environment at Rice has become encouraging of a diverse community of scholars, and the nation as a whole will benefit.

In addition, the CEEE also inspires K-12 students and teachers through several programs, including a summer CS-CAMP that has been scaled to other institutions and a “Math is Cool” video series to show students the importance of math in all our lives. (Received October 04, 2005)