



2019 SHPE National Convention **The Power of Transformation**

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SOCIETY OF HISPANIC PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS TO HOST 43RD NATIONAL CONVENTION IN PHOENIX OCTOBER 30 - NOVEMBER 3

Girl Scouts CEO, NASA Astronaut to Receive Awards at the Largest Gathering of Hispanic STEM Talent in the Nation

(October 7, 2019) – SHPE (The Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers), the largest national organization representing Hispanic professionals and students in STEM, will host its 43rd National Convention in Phoenix, Arizona at the Phoenix Convention Center from October 30 - November 3, 2019. SHPE's convention is the largest gathering of Hispanic STEM talent in the nation.

More than 8,000 students, professionals, academia, and industry leaders will gather for five days of learning and professional and leadership development through sessions and workshops, speakers, signature events, networking, competitions, and award ceremonies.

The theme of the convention is “The Power of Transformation,” celebrating the evolution of SHPE, the empowerment of our members, and the elevation of Hispanics in STEM. For all attendees, the convention will serve as a catalyst for both personal and professional transformation which, in turn, will have a powerful impact on the Hispanic community, the U.S. workforce, and our global economy.

Raquel Tamez, CEO of SHPE, says: “The U.S. is facing a skills gap. Employers will need to fill an estimated 3.5 million STEM jobs by 2025. Unfortunately, as many as 2 million of those jobs may go unfilled due to difficulty finding people with the skills in demand. And while nearly 20% of the U.S. population is Hispanic and growing every year, only 7% of STEM jobs are filled by Hispanic professionals. In leadership positions, this percentage is even lower. SHPE exists to narrow and eventually close this gap by raising STEM awareness and increasing access. In addition to connecting our members with many of the world's top employers of engineers, computer scientists and IT professionals, the SHPE National Convention is also one of our most powerful tools to prepare Hispanic students and professionals to be top talent and leaders in the field, driving innovation, the global economy, and a prosperous Hispanic community.”

Over the five days, attendees will be able to take advantage of technical training, leadership and professional development, and networking opportunities, as well as interacting with over 250 exhibitors and sponsors actively recruiting new talent. Companies in attendance will include Amazon, American Express, Apple, The Boeing Company, BP, Chevron, ExxonMobil, Google, Honeywell, IBM, Lockheed Martin, the National Security Council, among others.

The convention is made up of five specialized conferences, with something for everyone, including:

- The **Pre-College Conference** is an exciting two-day event designed to engage and motivate high school students around hands-on STEM activities that encourage them to think like an engineer or STEM professional.
- The **Academic Conference**, which includes tracks and events for Community College, Undergraduate, Graduate, LGBTQ, Academia, Deans, and Advisors, is designed to provide participants with the necessary resources and networking opportunities to identify best-practices, explore career opportunities, determine funding resources, and address the disparity of Hispanics earning STEM degrees and entering the STEM workforce.
- The **SHPEtinias: Igniting Latinas in STEM Conference**, a program with 12 separate events, sessions and workshops which highlights and celebrates Latinas in STEM under the theme of *Poderosa*, fully equips SHPEtinias with the requisite tools they need to excel in STEM fields.
- The **Professionals in STEM Conference** offers sessions, workshops, and high-impact networking events to benefit professional members at every point in their careers, from early stages, technical-expert level, all the way up to the C-suite and Board of Director levels.
- The **Technology and Innovation Conference** is a one-of-a-kind, cutting-edge experience designed to shine a spotlight on the latest technology in STEM, and the ways in which SHPE members and others are impacting these fields. STEM-focused competitions within this conference include the Nissan Design Competition, SHPE Innovation Challenge, and Extreme Engineering Challenge.

SHPE's National Convention will also include the exclusive Excellence in STEM Luncheon and the STAR Awards Gala, to recognize key individuals, corporations, government agencies, and academic institutions that have contributed significantly to support Hispanics in STEM. [The full list of winners is here.](#)

This year's recipient of one of SHPE's most prestigious honors, the Rubén Hinojosa STEM Champion Award, is Sylvia Acevedo, a former NASA JPL rocket scientist, entrepreneur, and current CEO of the Girl Scouts of the USA. The award, named after retired Texas Congressman Rubén Hinojosa, recognizes leaders who have a proven legacy of passionately supporting Hispanics in STEM and are champions for STEM initiatives within the Hispanic community.

SHPE will also debut a new award this year honoring veteran NASA astronaut and former director of the Johnson Space Center, Dr. Ellen Ochoa. Dr. Ochoa is the inaugural recipient of the award, which will honor excellence demonstrated by a Latina in the field of aerospace.

The Visionary Sponsors of the 2019 SHPE National Convention are Honeywell and American Express. The Academic Host Sponsor is Arizona State University's Ira A. Fulton Schools of Engineering.

Members of the media are encouraged to pre-register for the conference. For press credentials, contact Alyssa Sullivan at alyssa@alyssasullivanpr.com or 617-899-8631.

About SHPE

Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers (SHPE) is comprised of a national network of over 11,000 members and more than 300 chapters. SHPE's mission is to change lives by empowering the Hispanic community to realize its fullest potential and to impact the world through STEM awareness, access, support and development. SHPE provides a variety of programming, services, and resources including hosting the largest Hispanic STEM convention in the nation. For more information, visit <http://shpe.org>