



# SHPE Cincinnati Newsletter

SHPE Is the Source for Quality Hispanic Engineers and Technical Talent

Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers

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## President's Message



SHPE Cincinnati Professional chapter had a busy 2011 first quarter. On Feb. 17th, our chapter had its 2nd networking meeting at AMIS (Academy of Multilingual Immersion

Studies). Representatives from iSPACE presented their Robotics programs that we plan to use in the Robotics Clubs at local schools with high number of Hispanic students. SHPE Cincinnati selected AMIS (Cincinnati Public Schools) and Hopewell Jr. High (Lakota Schools) for our initial plan to sponsor and mentor at the next iSPACE competition.

On February 19th, SHPE Cincinnati members volunteered as judges in the First Tech Robotics Final Competition at the iSPACE Center in Sharonville, Ohio. This event served as a great learning lesson for our members as they prepare to form teams for the next competition at iSPACE.

In March and April we held a "Career Awareness" event for Hispanic kids in Lakota Hopewell Junior High and AMIS. The goals were to introduce students to STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) fields, motivate them to go to college, and make them aware of the opportunities available to them. It was a great experience for SHPE members that interacted with young thriving kids with lots of questions on college and STEM fields.

**Jorge Seda, President**

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## SHPE @ Robotics Competition

SHPE Cincinnati members volunteering as Judges at the First Tech Robotics Competition in Sharonville, OH.



*Above: members of SHPE Cincinnati as judges at First Tech Robotics Competition*

Several members of the Cincinnati Chapter of SHPE volunteered recently as judges at the First Tech Robotics competition - the "First Tech Challenge", a worldwide robotics competition. FIRST® (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) was founded in 1989 to inspire young people's interest and participation in science and technology. Based in Manchester, NH, the 501 (c) (3) not-for-profit public charity designs accessible, innovative programs that motivate young people to pursue education and career opportunities in science, technology, engineering, and math, while building self-confidence, knowledge, and life skills. Learn more about FIRST® on their website at [www.USFIRST.org](http://www.USFIRST.org).

We certainly hope that at the next competition, we'll have Hispanic kids from Robotics Clubs at AMIS and Hopewell Jr. High, sponsored and mentored by SHPE Cincinnati chapter.

Please join us in our efforts to expose more Hispanic children to the world of engineering and science. If you would like to join, please contact us

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# “College Awareness” Program



SHPE Cincinnati held in the first quarter of this year two “Career Awareness” seminars for Hispanic kids. The first one was on March 11th for 7th and 8th graders at Lakota Hopewell Junior High, and the second on April 26th for kids at AMIS (Academy of Multilingual Immersion Studies). The goal was to introduce students to fields in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math), and to Robotics Club idea.

It is one of SHPE Cincinnati’s initiatives to identify and sponsor a group of kids through iSPACE FIRST Lego League (Robotics Clubs). We want to excite the kids and make them aware of the opportunities out there. It was a great experience for SHPE members to interact with young thriving kids who have lot’s of questions on college and STEM fields.

We would like to thank Ms. Sharon Young from iSPACE, all SHPE Volunteers, and the staff of Lakota Hopewell Junior High and AMIS for support and participation.

At Hopewell Junior High



# Chapter and Member Activities

On Wednesday, Jan. 19th, 2011, three Board members: Maria King, Jorge Seda, and Michael Beck visited iSPACE to discuss collaboration on starting Robotics Clubs in couple of local schools. We met with Linda Neenan, the Executive Director. Also participating was Rayma Waters from UC CECH PASS



Program (Partner for Achieving School Success). Serving as a resource for the Greater Cincinnati/Tri-State region. iSPACE offers programs for students, educators and families which support and enhance science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) education that reaches beyond the formal classroom setting. iSPACE programs spark curiosity and engage interest in the sciences as well as accommodate a wide spectrum of learning styles. iSPACE is a 501(C)(3) not-for-profit organization that has been serving the Greater Cincinnati area since 2001.



As a sign of forging a strong relationship with iSPACE, several of SHPE Cincinnati members volunteered as judges in the First Tech Robotics Competition that took part last Saturday, Feb. 19, 2011.

On Thursday, Feb. 17, our chapter had its second networking meeting, this time at AMIS (Academy of Multilingual Immersion Studies), which has a high number of Hispanic students. Representatives from iSPACE presented the Robotics programs that they organize, and which we would like to use as the base for our Robotics Club that we want to start at AMIS.



## Robotics Team

SHPE Cincinnati is looking for volunteers to help with starting a Robotics Club for Hispanic kids in one of the K-8 schools in Cincinnati, with the goal to participate in Robotics events organized by FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology).

The children will discover the world of robotics as they build a LEGO NXT robot and explore the important role that robots play in our everyday lives. Then they will turn their creativity loose as they program a robot to do what they command it to do. In order to achieve this goal, SHPE Cincinnati is looking for STEM Professionals (scientists, engineers, software developers, teachers, etc.) who would like to be involved in mentoring programs. There is also need for financial support, so if our readers or the companies they work for, would like to support these initiatives, please contact SHPE Cincinnati President, Jorge Seda via: [president@shpecincinnati.org](mailto:president@shpecincinnati.org)



# SHPE Cincinnati Board and our 2011 Goals

Cincinnati finally has its own SHPE Professional Chapter! Created in May 2010 and officially approved by the SHPE National Board on June 13, the new chapter helped welcome the SHPE family to Cincinnati where the 2010 SHPE National Conference took place on Oct. 27-31. The event, the nation's largest technical conference for Hispanics, was estimated to bring 4,000 SHPE members to Cincinnati USA and have an estimated \$2.5 million impact to the local economy.

The focus for the first six months was to support the AHETEMS goal for high school student visitation and workshops during the National Conference, market the new chapter to potential new members and supporters, and help with a Science Camp organized by Northern Kentucky University.

The elected Board members are: Jorge Seda, President; Maria Esquibel-King, VP- Professional Development and Corporate Affairs; Amaranta Ramirez, VP Community Affairs and Student Relations; Elias Garcia, Treasurer; Edmond Irizarry, Administrative Officer; and Michael Beck, Marketing Chair.

The formation of the SHPE Professional Chapter in Cincinnati provides an excellent opportunity to work together with other leading Hispanic organizations, like the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce USA, to become the obvious source for quality Hispanic professionals in the fields of Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM). The chapter will fulfill its mission by promoting educational and networking opportunities, professional and personal growth while enhancing the pride and reputation of the Hispanic community.

#### **The Chapter Vision is:**

SHPE is the leading technical organization whose primary function is to enhance and achieve the potential of Hispanics in engineering, math and science.

#### **The Chapter Mission is:**

To make SHPE Cincinnati the clear choice for excellent Hispanic professionals in the fields of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) by promoting educational and networking opportunities, professional and personal growth while enhancing the pride and reputation of the Hispanic community.

#### **The Chapter Strategic Plan high level goals and objectives are:**

1. Improved academic performance & strengthen SHPE pipeline
2. Increased and retain SHPE membership
3. Increased community awareness

## SHPE Cincinnati Board 2010/11



Jorge Seda  
President



Maria Esquibel-King  
VP Development



Amaranta Ramirez  
VP Community



Elias Garcia  
Treasurer



Edmond Irizarry  
Administrative Officer



Michael Beck  
Marketing

## Our Sponsors



## About SHPE

SHPE is the source for quality Hispanic engineers and technical talent. "Hispanics are projected to comprise 20 percent of the college enrollment in the coming years, and it's critically important for our nation's future that the best and brightest of those students are encouraged to pursue careers in the science, technology, engineering and math professions," says, Pilar Montoya, CEO of SHPE. Through local and regional chapters nationwide, SHPE reaches out to students K-12, as well as at the undergraduate and graduate levels, with science fairs and camps, scholarships, mentoring programs, training, and other grassroots efforts to attract Hispanics into the STEM professions. Today SHPE is one of the leading sources of Hispanic STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) talent in the country.

To join SHPE, please contact our President, Jorge Seda at:  
[president@shpecincinnati.org](mailto:president@shpecincinnati.org)