

MAES ELECTS NATIONAL OFFICERS FOR 2006-2008 DURING TRANSITION BOARD MEETING IN HOUSTON

Houston, Texas (June 12, 2006) The Society of Mexican American Engineers and Scientists, Inc., (MAES) hosted a face-to-face meeting of the MAES National Board of Directors (NBOD) in Houston, Texas, on June 9 and 10, 2006. This NBOD meeting was the transition meeting attended by both outgoing and incoming board members. Outgoing board members include Victor Calderon, Maria Cercado, Maria Elena Prieto, and Javier Valdez. Incoming board members include Elizabeth Cercado, Maria Hernandez, Rocio Rangel, and Arturo Torres. Returning board members include Michael Acosta, Leticia Benitez, William Davis, Luis Franco, Esther Moreno Gonzales, Keith Marrocco, Connie Medina, and Lorena Schaible.

This meeting also served as the elections meeting for the MAES national officers for the term of June 1, 2006, through May 31, 2008. These new national officers are:

- Michael Acosta, National President
- William Davis, National Vice-President of Operations
- Connie Medina, National Vice-President of Development
- Esther Moreno Gonzales, National Treasurer
- Rocio Rangel, National Secretary

Michael Acosta is Associate Director of the Institute for Policy and Economic Development at The University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP) and Executive Director of the FUMEC Border Office. Mike is involved in binational efforts to develop high-tech businesses as a means for economic development in the El Paso/Juarez region. Mike is a past president of the El Paso Professional Chapter, has been a member of the MAES NBOD for over 10 years, and has participated on several IS&CF planning committees including serving as co-chair for the 2003 conference in Phoenix. Mike has also held the offices of National Vice-President of Development and National Secretary. Mike is a Medalla de Oro Award recipient.

William Davis is a Materials and Process Quality Engineer at NASA Johnson Space Center providing safety oversight and quality engineering support for the Space Shuttle Orbiter. He holds a BS and MS in Metallurgical and Materials Engineering from The University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP) where he also served as student chapter president. Will has been on the NBOD since 2003, first serving as a student board member, and then a professional board member. He also served as National Secretary for 2005-2006. Will is a MAES Padrino scholar, has served on four IS&CF planning committees, and chaired two National Leadership Conferences.

Connie Medina was born East Los Angeles and raised in Cerritos, California. Connie holds a BS in Electrical Engineering from California State University, Fullerton (CSUF) where she originally joined MAES as a student member. She has been an active member of the Orange County Professional Chapter serving as a chapter officer, supporting the Anaheim High School FIRST Robotics efforts, and also co-chairing the 1998 and 2002 International Symposium & Career Fair. At the national level, she served as a board member from 1995 to 2001 and 2003 to 2006. In January 2000, she received the Medalla de Oro Award. She currently is a Parts Manager for the Precision Guidance Systems programs at Raytheon.

Esther Moreno Gonzales received her BS in Chemical Engineering in 1995 from Rutgers University. She was a MAES Student member starting in 1990 at Texas A&M University where she served as chapter president. She has been a MAES professional member since 1995. After graduation, she worked in various engineering positions for BASF in New Jersey and Hewlett-Packard in California. In October 2001, she received the Medalla de Oro Award. She was elected to the MAES Board of Directors in 2000 to present. Esther served as MAES National President for 2004-2006.

Rocio Rangel is a Computer Engineer for the Inter-Range Control Center at White Sands Missile Range, New Mexico. She holds a BS in Computer Engineering from The University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP) and is currently pursuing an MBA from New Mexico State University. While at UTEP she was an active member of the student chapter and served as student

chapter president. Currently involved with the El Paso professional chapter, she holds the position of Vice President of Membership.

The Society of Mexican American Engineers and Scientists, Inc. (MAES), was founded in Los Angeles in 1974 by a group of professional engineers to advance and increase the number of Latinos, especially those of Mexican American descent, in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics by creating opportunities and fostering recognition through its professional, technical, and outreach activities. The mission of MAES is to promote, cultivate, and honor excellence in education and leadership among Latino engineers and scientists. MAES is a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation.

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