



Rodriguez

Junior Leslie Rodriguez Completes National Science Foundation Internship

Tampa, Fla. (August 31, 2010) – Leslie Rodriguez, a junior majoring in Computer Engineering, recently completed a summer internship at the National Science Foundation (NSF) in Arlington, Virginia. Leslie worked in the Directorate of Computer & Information Science & Engineering (CISE) in the Division of Computer & Network Systems (CNS). During his internship, Leslie gained insight into NSF’s awarding process and analyzed funded projects with NSF’s Broadening Participation in Computing (BPC). The goal of the BPC program is to significantly increase the number of U.S. citizens and permanent residents receiving postsecondary degrees in computing disciplines with an emphasis on students from communities with longstanding underrepresentation in the computing fields.

USF has an NSF Broadening Participation in Computing project, the Computer Science Transfer Program (CSTEP) that is bridging Hillsborough Community College transfers into the bachelor of science programs within the College of Engineering’s Department of Computer Science and Engineering.

“It was a great experience for me to learn about the different research opportunities and projects currently going on in the STEM fields which I could become involved,” said Rodriguez. He learned about the internship opportunity through the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU). HACU has a national internship program which offers internships in the Washington DC area and provides students with paid internships (based upon their academic level), travel and housing costs. Annually, HACU receives over 9,000 applications for approximately 450 internships in the Washington, D.C. area as well other agencies around the United States. Primarily, student applications come from Texas, Puerto Rico, and a few in the Miami area. This year, Rodriguez was the only applicant from the University of South Florida.

According to Rodriguez, “As the president of the USF Student Chapter of the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers (SHPE), I will be seeking to have the number of USF applicants increase for the upcoming year, because the HACU internship program is a wonderful opportunity that can help our students become more competitive for the technical workforce.”

HACU National Internship Program

http://www.hacu.net/hacu/Apply_Online_EN.asp?SnID=1167582716

USF Broadening Participation in Computing Program – Computer Science Transfer Program

<http://www.csee.usf.edu/BPC/>

The University of South Florida is one of the nation's top 63 public research universities and one of only 25 public research universities nationwide with very high research activity that is designated as community engaged by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching. USF was awarded \$380.4 million in research contracts and grants in FY 2008/2009. The university offers 232 degree programs at the undergraduate, graduate, specialist and doctoral levels, including the doctor of medicine. The USF System has a \$1.8 billion annual budget, an annual economic impact of \$3.2 billion, and serves more than 47,000 students on institutions/campuses in Tampa, St. Petersburg, Sarasota-Manatee and Lakeland. USF is a member of the Big East Athletic Conference.

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