Educator of the Year

Higher Education Award

Dr. Jorge A. Lopez
University of Texas at El Paso

Dr. Jorge Lopez, a professor in the Physics Department at the University of Texas at El Paso, constantly looks for innovative ways to promote STEM awareness among Hispanic students of all ages.

Known for his role as a mentor, Dr. Lopez recruits promising engineers with no regard for borders, such as Alfredo Aranda, a Mexican national who eventually earned a Ph.D. and became Director of Physics at Universidad de Colima. Along with his former student Jorge Muñoz, a Ph.D. candidate at Caltech, Dr. Lopez received the prestigious Huy Award from the Texas Section of the American Physical Society. Between 2002 and 2005, Dr. Lopez also organized Ciencia de Frontera, a Spanish-language series featuring American, Mexican and European university lecturers. It was directed to high school and university students on both sides of the US/Mexico border.

Dr. Lopez regularly employs the media to reach a broader audience. Among the 34 interviews he has granted are those with Ruben Luengas, host of En Contexto on Teleundo 52 Los Angeles and writer for the newspaper Diario of El Paso. From 1995 to 2011, Dr. Lopez was the Technical Editor of Universo (the Spanish version of StarDate), produced by the MacDonald Observatory of the University of Texas. The daily two-minute radio segments reached more than two million listeners throughout the United States and Latin America. A 2011 grant from the American Physical Society has enabled Dr. Lopez to produce bilingual radio segments featuring Hispanic researchers.

Dr. Lopez collaborated with the Society of Mexican American Engineers and Scientists to organize the lecture series for the 2010 Austin Science and Engineering Festival. Also, he organized an event so that more than 2000 high school students could observe a 2004 solar eclipse from UTEP’s Sun Bowl Stadium.

A Fellow with the American Physical Society, Dr. Lopez did postdoctoral stays at the Niels Bohr Institute at the University of Copenhagen (Denmark) and Lawrence Berkeley Laboratory. He holds a Ph.D. in nuclear physics from Texas A&M University, College Station, and B.S. and M.S. degrees from UTEP.

The Educator of the Year Award for Higher Education recognizes the exemplary contributions made by administrators and a tenure-track/tenuer faculty member to improve the learning environment for Hispanic students.

FACULTY POSITION POSTING FORM
Rochester Institute of Technology, Kate Gleason College of Engineering
Assistant Professor or Higher Mechanical Engineering
Faculty, Tenure Track

Starting Date: Late August, 2012 for fall positions

DETAILED DESCRIPTION:
The Department of Mechanical Engineering at Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT) invites applications for a tenure-track faculty position anticipated to be filled at the Assistant Professor level, although a higher rank may be considered for candidates with exceptional background and experience. The successful candidate will teach both undergraduate and graduate courses as well as develop externally funded research, supervise undergraduate student design teams and graduate student theses, and perform other professional duties. The successful candidates will be expected to teach core mechanical engineering courses and develop technical training.

The Department has a strong commitment to engineering education and offers Bachelor of Science, Master of Science and Master of Engineering degree programs. The Department also contributes to a growing multi-disciplinary Ph.D. program in Microsystems engineering in the Kate Gleason College of Engineering. The Department offers aerospace engineering, biomechanical engineering and energy systems options to students completing their curricula in mechanical engineering. The emphasis of our program is on career-oriented, hands-on education with mandatory co-op program. Candidates are sought who can contribute to existing and developing sponsored programs in the Department and the College. Our primary focus for the position is an individual who can contribute to the growth and development of one or more of the above curricular options. We are seeking an individual who has the ability and interest in contributing to a community Committed to Student Centeredness; Professional Development and Scholarship; Integrity and Ethics; Respect, Diversity and Pluralism; Innovation and Flexibility; and Teamwork and Collaboration. Select to view links to RIT’s core values, honor code, and statement of diversity.

THE COLLEGE/DEPARTMENT:
The Kate Gleason College of Engineering has established its reputation as a preeminent in career-oriented engineering education with a rapidly growing commitment to research. It offers bachelor degree programs in biomedical, chemical, computer, electrical, industrial, mechanical and microelectronic engineering, and comprehensive, innovative graduate programs in a range of engineering disciplines including a broad-based cross-disciplinary doctoral degree in Microsystems Engineering.

RIT is a national leader in professional and career-oriented education. Talented, ambitious, and creative students of all cultures and backgrounds—and from 50 states and more than 150 countries—have chosen to attend RIT. Founded in 1829, Rochester Institute of Technology is a privately endowed, coeducational university with nine colleges and institutes emphasizing career education and experiential learning. With approximately 13,000 undergraduates and 2,000 graduate students, RIT is one of the largest private universities in the nation. RIT offers a rich array of programs designing the creation of the future in engineering, science, business, and the arts, and is home to the National Technical Institute for the Deaf. RIT has been recognized by The Chronicle of Higher Education in their “Great Colleges to Work For” list for three consecutive years.

Rochester, located on Lake Ontario, is the 75th largest city in the United States and the third largest city in New York State. The Greater Rochester region, which is home to nearly one million people, is rich in cultural and ethnic diversity, with a population comprised of 22% African and Latino Americans and another 7% of international origin. It is also home to the largest deaf community per capita in the US. Rochester ranks 3rd best metropolitan regions for Raising a Family” by Forbes Magazine; 6th among 379 metropolitan areas in “Best Places to Live in America” by Places Rated Almanac; 1st in Expansion Management Magazine’s ranking of metropolitan areas “Quality of Life in the Nation”; and is among Essence Magazine’s “Top 10 Cities for Black Families.”

QUALIFICATIONS:

REQUIRED:

- Ph.D. in Mechanical Engineering or a Ph.D. in a related field
- Applicants with a Ph.D. in a related field must have at least one degree in Mechanical Engineering
- Strong written and oral communication skills

PREFERRED:

- Demonstrated classroom teaching experience
- Work experience in government or industry
- Ability to contribute to existing and developing sponsored programs in the Department and the College
- Ability to contribute to the growth and development of one or more of the aerospace engineering, biomechanical engineering, automotive engineering, and energy systems curricular options
- Ability to contribute meaningful ways to the college’s continuing commitment to cultural diversity, pluralism, and individual differences

HOW TO APPLY:

Apply online at http://careers.rit.edu. KEYWORD Search: IRC03031. Please submit a letter of interest addressing all listed qualifications (2-3pg limit); a resume (5-7pg limit); a statement of teaching interest and philosophy (1pg limit); an overview of research interest and plan for future development (1pg limit); and the names, addresses and phone numbers of four references.

For questions about the position, you may contact the search committee chair: Dr. Alan Nye, Professor and Faculty Search Committee Chairperson, Dept. of Mechanical Engineering, Kate Gleason College of Engineering, Rochester Institute of Technology, 70 Lomb Memorial Dr., Rochester, NY 14623-5604, Phone: (585) 475-6131, E-mail: anye@rit.edu.

Application deadline: December 31, 2011.

The Rochester Institute of Technology is an equal opportunity/affirmative action employer.