Industrial Engineering Faculty Selected to Participate in the Frontiers of Engineering Education Symposium

Heidi Taboada-Jimenez, Ph.D., and Jose Espiritu Nolasco, Ph.D., assistant professors of industrial, manufacturing and systems engineering at The University of Texas at El Paso, have been selected to join the nation’s most innovative young engineering educators at the National Academy of Engineering’s fourth Frontiers of Engineering Education Symposium Oct. 14-17 in Irvine, Calif.

The Frontiers of Engineering Education (FOEE) is comprised of faculty members who are developing and implementing innovative educational approaches in a variety of engineering disciplines. The FOEE symposium brings together some of the nation’s most engaged and innovative engineering educators for the two-and-a-half-day event, where they can share ideas, learn from research and best practice in education, and leave with a charter to bring about improvement in their home institutions.

The attendees were nominated by fellow engineers or deans and chosen from a highly competitive pool of applicants.

“We are very excited about having been selected to attend NAE’s symposium on Frontiers of Engineering Education, and we are eager to share the work we have developed at UTEP and meet other talented educators from across the country,” Taboada (or Espiritu) said.

“I am not surprised Drs. Taboada and Espiritu were chosen to participate in this very prestigious event,” said Dr. Richard Schoephoerster, Ph.D., College of Engineering dean. “They have been a dual dynamo in the IMSE department in the development of innovative curriculum geared toward sustainability. They are truly pushing the frontier in this area of curricular development.”
This year's symposium will focus on innovations in the context, curriculum, and delivery of engineering education.

“It is absolutely critical that U.S. engineering educators learn how to become more effective in the classroom, utilizing technology and pedagogy in creative ways in order to produce more innovative graduates who have the ability to address the complex problems of the 21st century,” said Larry Shuman, senior associate dean for academic affairs and distinguished service professor of industrial engineering at the University of Pittsburgh, and chair of the FOEE planning committee.