

Promoting Diversity at the CIRP 2009 General Assembly in Boston

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Abstract

This award encourages the participation of US researchers in the 59th General Assembly of the CIRP, the International Academy for Production Engineering, in Boston in August of 2009. The CIRP is the premier global organization for promoting international research discussion and collaboration for production, or manufacturing, engineering. Founded in 1951, the CIRP covers a broad spectrum of essential production engineering disciplines, including details of manufacturing processes, and the dynamics of production organizations. At the General Assembly in Boston about 500 leaders from about 35 countries will participate in the presentation of papers on current research, in-depth discussion of current research issues, sharing recent developments in their laboratories, and planning for joint research. The award provides support for at least fifteen women and underrepresented minorities participation and young scholars and graduate students from the US institutions to attend and participate in the General Assembly in Boston. There these minorities, women and young researchers will interact with many of the best manufacturing researchers in the world, giving them direct exposure to some of the most interesting and important production engineering research projects and laboratories internationally. This will promote the understanding of and participation in research in production engineering among a broader group of minorities, women and young researchers than would otherwise be possible.

Promoting broader participation in research in production engineering will help the United States with its staggering trade deficit, which is largely due to the loss of competitiveness in the manufacturing sector. Continuing weakness in manufacturing has an impact on the enrolment of students in manufacturing engineering and on the university research infrastructure. Weakened academic and research infrastructure accelerates the deterioration of the manufacturing sector. Encouraging participation in research in production engineering is essential for manufacturing growth and sustainability, and for strengthening the economy.