In 1992, Tapia was elected to the National Academy of Engineering. Tapia became the first native-born Hispanic to ever receive this recognition.

Tapia also serves as the Associate Director of Minority Affairs for the Office of Graduates at Rice University.

Named one of the twenty most prominent leaders in math education by a minority

Educator of the year by the Hispanic Engineer Magazine

He was awarded the “George R. Brown Award for Superior Teaching.”

Tapia has been featured in numerous magazine articles including the Houston Chronicle, Hispanic Engineer, and SACNAS.

While professor at Rice University in Houston, Texas, he received first place in student teacher evaluations.

He has received the “Presidential Award for Excellence in Science, Mathematics, and Engineering Mentoring.”

Appointed to the National Science Board by President Clinton.

Written over 60 paper on Mathematics.