

October 28, 2009  
San Antonio, TX



Bourns College of Engineering was honored on Oct. 28 in San Antonio, Texas as one of three universities nationwide to receive the Claire Felbinger Award for Diversity from ABET, the engineering and technology accreditation organization. The award was presented at a luncheon at the association's annual meeting. Chinya Ravishankar, Associate Dean and computer science professor, was designated to attend the awards presentation in place of UC President Mark Yudof. He is pictured at left with ABET President-Elect David Holger.

After receiving the award, Ravishankar talked about the excellence Bourns College has achieved in the short time it has been around. "I emphasized the deep commitment that our faculty have to ensuring student success, and how involved they are in various activities that promote this success," he said. "I especially mentioned our undergraduate research program, how well it has grown, and how deeply both faculty and students are engaged in it."

BCOE's citation read: "In recognition of extraordinarily successful initiatives for recruiting undergraduate and graduate students from diverse and disadvantaged backgrounds, retaining them through the bachelor's degree, and advancing them to graduate studies and careers in engineering." Our faculty and staff truly appreciate this recognition of their efforts by ABET.












# Bourns College of Engineering Honored with ABET Diversity Award

Recognized for recruiting, retaining and advancing students from diverse backgrounds

*(October 2, 2009)*

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*A diverse group of future engineers at Bourns College of Engineering's commencement in 2008.*

RIVERSIDE, Calif. ([www.ucr.edu](http://www.ucr.edu)) – UC Riverside's Bourns College of Engineering (BCOE) has been chosen to receive one of three 2009 Claire Felbinger Awards for Diversity from ABET, the recognized accrediting body for college and university programs in applied science, computing, engineering, and technology.

The Felbinger award recognizes U.S.-based educational units, individuals, associations and firms for extraordinary success in achieving or facilitating diversity and inclusiveness in the technological segments of our society. UC President Mark Yudof has been invited to accept the award at the ABET Commission Summit October 28 in San Antonio, Texas.

In a letter to Yudof informing him of the award, ABET wrote that Bourns College is being honored "in recognition of extraordinarily successful initiatives for recruiting undergraduate and graduate students from diverse and disadvantaged backgrounds, retaining them through the bachelor's degree, and advancing them to graduate studies and careers in engineering."

"This is a stellar recognition of Bourns College's commitment to the success of engineering students who are a reflection of the communities, both local and global, where they will live and work," said BCOE Dean Reza Abbaschian. "It's a strong indication that we are on the right path, and a well-earned endorsement of the energetic efforts of our faculty, staff, alumni and students."

ABET President Joseph L. Sussman said in the announcement: "We want to make sure that we acknowledge the people, institutions, and organizations that are making the fields that ABET accredits more representative of the populations they are serving, and we also want to inspire others to do the same."

Additional recipients of the award for 2009 include the College of Engineering at Florida State University and Florida A&M University, and the College of Engineering and Computer Science at California State University, Fullerton.

The award was named to honor the late Claire Felbinger, former chair of American University's masters of public administration program and a public member of the ABET board of directors. Under her leadership, the Public Member Committee was responsible for many of ABET's diversity initiatives for technical fields and the diversity award's creation.

ABET, Inc., is a federation of 30 professional and technical societies representing these fields. Prior to 2005, it was known as the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology. All of Bourns College's programs are ABET-accredited.