



FOR RELEASE  
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## **Tau Beta Pi Announces Dr. Derrick K. Rollins as 2012 McDonald Mentor**

Tau Beta Pi, the engineering honor society, has named its seventh McDonald Mentor. The award celebrates excellence in mentoring and advising among Tau Beta Pi educators and engineers who consistently support the personal and professional development of their students and colleagues. While the primary goal of Tau Beta Pi is to recognize students of superior scholarship and exemplary character and to honor eminent practicing engineers, the Association also lauds excellence in engineering education and in the ethical practice of engineering.

**Dr. Derrick K. Rollins**, *Iowa Alpha '79*, is professor of chemical and biological engineering and professor-in-charge of community based recruitment and transition at Iowa State University. He is the *2012 Tau Beta Pi-McDonald Mentor*, and will be honored on September 29, 2012, at the 107th annual Convention to be held in Lexington, Kentucky. Tau Beta Pi President Dr. Larry A. Simonson, P.E., will present \$1,000 and an engraved medallion to Dr. Rollins. Another \$1,000 grant will be presented to the Iowa Alpha Chapter of Tau Beta Pi for nominating him.

Established in 2005 by Marion and Capers W. McDonald and the Association, the McDonald Mentor Award recognizes engineering educators or professionals in industry, government, or service organizations who have shown true concern for the individual, supporting an environment for developing talents, and who have earned respect and recognition for their contributions to their field and to the greater community.

A tireless advisor, Dr. Rollins was recognized for his outstanding success in mentoring engineering students. He has proven that with a constant, driving motivation one can succeed in making a difference professionally, academically, and socially where others have not.

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Dr. Rollins received his B.S. in chemical engineering from the University of Kansas, two master's degrees in chemical engineering and statistics, respectively, from The Ohio State University, and a Ph.D. in chemical engineering from The Ohio State University. He spent time working in industry for DuPont before joining academia.

Dr. Rollins joined the faculty at Iowa State University (ISU) in 1990. He is an outstanding teacher, educator, and researcher. His research focus is on bridging the gap between chemical engineering and statistics to emphasize statistical methods of quality control of practicing engineers.

As an advisor, he has served 35 graduate students, more than 130 undergraduate research students and 50 summer interns, and as a faculty advisor to 11 campus organizations. A particular focus of his work has been encouraging and empowering women, minorities, and youth from disadvantaged groups to pursue and succeed in careers related to engineering and science.

His nomination statement declared: "Professor Rollins has consistently supported the personal and professional development of students, including Iowa Alpha members through the Iowa Alpha Scholars Program. He has given back to the community through his tireless efforts to help others in disadvantaged situations overcome the odds and succeed in life through education."

He has founded or co-founded several programs at ISU, including the LEAD program to promote the retention of minorities through pairing up with faculty members; the SPEED summer bridge program to help incoming underrepresented freshmen students become acclimated to life on campus and the rigors of engineering study; and the establishment of a chapter for the National Organization for the Professional Advancement of Black Chemists and Chemical Engineers at ISU.

His life of service has been recognized through several awards, including the prestigious mentor award from the American Association for the Advancement of Science and the National Science Foundation Presidential Faculty Fellows Award. He has also served as diversity advisor to the President's cabinet at ISU. At home, he is the proud father of five children: Adina, Cherise, Derrick, Diandra, and Janielle, and husband to wife Anita.

The chapter nomination concludes, "We believe that Dr. Rollins' leadership and commitment to assisting minority youth to pursue the study of science and engineering, his counseling and mentoring of engineering students both academically and personally, and his caring and unselfish devotion to helping students, friends, and associates makes him an outstanding candidate for this award."

Dr. Rollins' enthusiastic commitment has made him a leader and champion for the advancement of minorities in engineering education. For these contributions as an advisor and educator developing talented leaders and promoting the growth of students and faculty, Dr. Derrick K. Rollins is the 2012 Tau Beta Pi-McDonald Mentor.

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**Tau Beta Pi is the Engineering Honor Society, founded at Lehigh University in 1885. It has collegiate chapters at 238 engineering colleges in the United States and active alumnus chapters in 18 cities. It has initiated more than 535, 000 members in its 127-year history and is the world's largest engineering society. (See [www.tbp.org](http://www.tbp.org))**