

Johnny Guzmán Awarded 2026 Blackwell-Tapia Prize for Research and Mentoring in the Mathematical Sciences

September 17, 2026 – The National Blackwell-Tapia Prize Selection Committee is pleased to announce the 2026 Blackwell-Tapia Prize will be awarded to **Dr. Johnny Guzmán**, associate chair and professor of applied mathematics at Brown University. Since 2002, the biennial Blackwell-Tapia Prize has recognized an active mathematical scientist who has contributed and continues to contribute significantly to research in their fields of expertise, and who has served as an outstanding mentor with a demonstrated record of developing mathematical talent wherever it may be found, including underserved communities. The prize will be awarded at the 13th Blackwell-Tapia Conference and Award Ceremony in December 2026 at Rice University in Houston, Texas.



The prize honors the legacies of Drs. David Blackwell (1919-2010) and Richard Tapia (1938-2026). Blackwell was elected to the National Academy of Science for his work in game theory, information transmission, probability, and statistical estimation. Tapia, a member of the National Academy of Engineering, obtained major results in optimization and iterative methods for non-linear programming. Both received the National Medal of Science, the highest recognition the United States can bestow on scientists and engineers. Their profound research contributions, dedicated mentoring, and energetic leadership of the mathematical sciences are a model and inspiration for future generations.

Dr. Guzmán was born in Torrance, California, and received his bachelor's degree in mathematics at California State University, Long Beach in 1999 and his doctorate in applied mathematics from Cornell University in 2005. After a U.S. National Science Foundation (NSF) Mathematical Sciences Postdoctoral Research Fellowship at the University of Minnesota, Guzmán joined the Division of Applied Mathematics at Brown University in 2008. His research has been supported by the NSF and the National Security Agency, as well as the research offices of the Air Force, Army, and Navy. He served on the Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics (SIAM) Council and as an editor of several journals in numerical analysis and scientific computing. Guzmán was awarded the 2013 Comfort and Urry Family Fund Prize at Brown University.



His research focuses on the mathematical foundations of numerical methods for solving partial differential equations, combining rigorous mathematical analysis with computational innovation to develop algorithms that are provably accurate, stable, and efficient. Over the course of his career, Dr. Guzmán has made pioneering contributions to finite element methods, discontinuous Galerkin methods, and finite element exterior calculus, establishing fundamental advances in stability theory, convergence analysis, superconvergence, and error estimation that have reshaped these fields. He has also devoted his time to nurturing undergraduate and graduate students, postdoctoral researchers, and junior faculty, creating an environment in which early-career mathematicians are challenged, supported, and encouraged to flourish.

The National Blackwell-Tapia Prize Selection Committee includes past prize recipients Dr. Illya Hicks of Rice University (2024 awardee), Dr. Tatiana Toro of the Simons Laufer Mathematical Institute and the University of Washington (2020), Dr. Juan C. Meza of the Simons Laufer Mathematics Institute and the University of California, Merced (2008), as well as Dr. Brendan Hassett of the Institute for Computational and Experimental Research in Mathematics and Dr. Robert Megginson of the University of Michigan.

2026 Blackwell-Tapia Conference and Award Ceremony

The 13th [Blackwell-Tapia Conference and Award Ceremony](#) takes place December 4-5, 2026 at Rice University. The conference includes scientific talks, poster presentations for early-career researchers, panel discussions, and other opportunities for mathematical scientists at all career stages to network, showcase their work, and build on efforts to increase diversity in mathematics. The 2026 event is supported by Rice University and an NSF award to the Institute for Computational and Experimental Research in Mathematics.

