

Zoila Haro



Puget Sound plans to host its first annual *Viva Technomanía* event to promote science, engineering and technology among children.

When you leave home to seek a career opportunity in a different state, SHPE becomes family." That thought, expressed by Zoila Haro, is very comforting indeed.

Still, the notion of *familia* is only one of many important benefits of SHPE membership. Haro also credits SHPE with getting her the job she holds today with Microsoft. "I was able to eloquently communicate to the recruiters how fit I was for the job because of my past experience as a leader, program manager, organizer and negotiator," she explained. "I learned skills such as dealing with ambiguity and confrontation." Moreover, skills garnered with SHPE have resulted in enhanced job performance. "Because of my experience with SHPE, I have been able to excel at a faster pace than my peers who join my team with similar education, background and experience," she added.

Haro considers her chapter colleagues both talented and truly genuine. That will come in very handy as they seek to ease the shortage of technical talent. The chapter has planned two major community outreach events for this school year. One event, already held, included a boat-building competition where middle school students helped in the design and creation of boats made of milk cartons and competed in Seattle's Seafair competition. The chapter plans to host its first annual *Viva Technomanía* event to help promote science, engineering and technology among students through innovative and creative thinking.

Zoila Haro is a program manager with Microsoft. She holds a B.S. in computer information systems from California State University, Chico. Haro joined SHPE as a student in 1996.