

DECISION SCIENCES INSTITUTE - SOUTHWEST REGION

OUTSTANDING EDUCATOR AWARD

is presented to



Kai S. Koong

The 2012 SWDSI Outstanding Educator Award recipient is Dr. Kai S. Koong from The University of Texas – Pan American (UTPA). A member of Southwest DSI since the early 1980s, Dr. Koong has been selected for this award for his many significant contributions to excellence in undergraduate and graduate education in the United States and abroad.

Dr. Koong is a Professor and Chair of the Department of Computer Information Systems (CIS) and Quantitative Methods at UTPA. Prior to that, he was the Director of the Graduate Studies Program in CIS at Southern University in New Orleans and Founding Dean of the Center of Excellence in CIS at Dakota State University. Professor Koong is well known among peers as a passionate and effective leader for developing new programs, fostering curriculum innovation, and partnering with stakeholders to attain sustainable initiatives. Most of all, Dr. Koong has an established record for his work with helping under-served, disadvantaged, and under-represented students. In the last fifteen years alone, over 50 undergraduate and graduate students from minority populations have attained educational excellence because of Dr. Koong's commitment to mentoring and co-authoring with them. Many of their research papers are published in international, national, and regional conferences as well as peer-referred journals that have a global circulation. In addition, many of these students have won national and regional competitions because of his leadership and support. During the 2010-2011 academic year alone, UTPA students were adjudged to be the best in the nation in Network Design at the Association Information Technology Professionals National Conference in Florida. UTPA students also won

second place in Computer Security and were among the top ten teams in Trouble Shooting at the Regional Competition in Houston. When Dr. Koong was the Director of the MBA Program at UTPA, the university was awarded the prestigious national Brillante Award. In recognition of his many contributions, Dr. Koong has been the recipient of numerous teaching, research and service awards in the United States and abroad. He has also been nominated by students and selected for inclusion in many *Who's Who* publications.

Dr. Koong's contribution to DSI is equally impressive. He has served as SWDSI President (2009-2010), Past-President (2010-2011), Program Chair of two consecutive conferences (2007-2009), Proceedings Editor (2005), and was a representative on the Federation of Business Disciplines (FBD) Board of Directors (2009-2010). He has also been a member of the national DSI honor society - Alpha Iota Delta (since 1990), a member of the Alpha Iota Delta Liaison Committee (2000-2002), and as a Campus Representative from 1990 to 1994.

Dr. Koong has published over a hundred research articles; some 9 articles in books and special publications, 58 articles in peer-refereed journals, and the rest in the proceedings of prestigious conferences in the United States as well as those abroad. He has also served on 24 thesis and dissertation committees. Dr. Koong is the Editor-in-Chief of the *International Journal of Services and Standards* and the *International Journal of Electronic Healthcare* and has been a Guest Editor of the *International Journal of Mobile Learning and Organisation*. He also serves on the editorial review boards of other leading information systems journals and is an advisory board member of a number of companies and institutional centers of excellence.

In recognition of his professional commitment, leadership, and service to the academy and the Decision Sciences Institute, Southwest Region, Dr. Kai S. Koong has been selected to receive the 2012 Outstanding Educator Award.