

FOR RELEASE  
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## **Tau Beta Pi Announces Dr. Robert E. Efimba, P.E., as 2010 National Outstanding Advisor**

Tau Beta Pi, the engineering honor society, has named its 17th National Outstanding Advisor in its program to recognize engineering faculty who make important contributions to students and collegiate chapters. 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. Robert E. Efimba, P.E.**, *Massachusetts Beta '63*, associate professor of civil engineering at Howard University, and Chief Advisor to the District of Columbia Alpha Chapter, is the *2010 Tau Beta Pi National Outstanding Advisor*. He will be honored on October 9, 2010, at the 105th annual Convention to be held in King of Prussia, Pennsylvania. Tau Beta Pi President Dr. Larry A. Simonson, P.E., will present \$1,000 and a commemorative plaque to Dr. Efimba. Another \$1,000 grant will be presented to Howard University college of engineering's discretionary fund.

Dr. Efimba was cited by students and friends of Tau Beta Pi for his dedication to the enhancement of the Association, at the local and national levels, his personality and commitment to inspiring excellence, and an ability to steer students toward success.

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Dr. Efimba has been Chief Advisor to DC Alpha for 20 years and an advisor to the chapter for nearly 33 years. He specializes in structural engineering, mechanics, and design. He joined the Howard civil engineering faculty as an assistant professor in 1975, becoming an associate professor in 1982. He previously gained his bachelor's, master's, and doctorate at Massachusetts Institute of Technology, lectured on civil engineering at the University of Nigeria, and worked as an engineer with the public works department in Cameroon.

Giving life to his belief in positive reinforcement, Dr. Efimba established an award system for student members, with appropriate certificates becoming a feature at banquets. This helped new members gain aspirations, while rewarding longer-standing members for consistently doing well.

He has perfected a balance in providing support, ideas, and continuity, while never making decisions himself or dominating chapter affairs. Dr. Efimba constantly reminds student officers that it is their chapter, providing opportunity and resources to help them succeed as leaders.

Under his leadership, the image and visibility of TBPI has been enhanced in several ways, from the administration's appreciation and recognition of the chapter as a vital part of college life to initiation and membership acceptance rates that are almost 100 percent. The chapter has also received a number of outstanding project awards, secretary-treasurer's commendations, and Greater Interest in Government Grants. Each of these was made possible because Dr. Efimba was behind the scenes, promoting, reminding, encouraging, and advising.

Dr. Efimba's commitment to TBPI extends well beyond the chapter. He has served in various capacities at local and national levels. These include chairing the 2006 Committee of Chapter Advisors, service as a member of the Task Group on International Activities and the Advisor Recruitment and Development Committee, as well as being a member of inspection teams.

He seeks to "get the word out" about TBPI in the community through chapter projects, and by encouraging the initiation of accomplished professionals as eminent engineers. Dr. Efimba devised an objective process for screening eminent-engineer candidates, which has now been adopted into the chapter bylaws. He is also a faculty advisor for ASCE, and a mentor to the student team for the steel bridge competition. He has served on NSF and ASEE/Department of Defense review panels, and been a member of the Architect-Engineer Evaluation Board of the Pennsylvania Avenue Development Corporation.

In his chapter's nomination, it was stated that, "While there are definitely a number of outstanding advisors throughout Tau Beta Pi, none of them is perhaps as essential and appreciated as Dr. Efimba is at DC Alpha. His personality, consistency, and visibility have been and will continue to be an asset...."

In recognition of his leadership abilities, numerous contributions, and talent for inspiring students to create and maintain an effective chapter, Tau Beta Pi hereby recognizes Robert E. Efimba as the 2010 Tau Beta Pi National Outstanding Advisor.

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**Tau Beta Pi, the world's largest engineering society, has initiated more than 516,000 members since it was founded in 1885. Headquartered in Knoxville, Tennessee, the Association has 236 active collegiate chapters and 18 active alumnus chapters throughout the country.**