

TAMIU doctoral student takes prize

SPECIAL TO THE TIMES

For the third year in a row, Texas A&M International University had a strong showing at the Fifth Annual Pathways to the Ph.D. Symposium Conference hosted by Tarleton State University in Stephenville, Nov. 2 - 3.

Doctoral student Kristan Skylar Powell's research into the effects of international diversification on research and development intensity was selected as the best doctoral research project in business.

"Winning the best doctoral project in business at Pathways means a great deal to me because it indicates that my project and area of research are important," Powell said. "I was very excited when I started the project, but after a little while, I was wondering if anyone else would share my enthusiasm. I thought, oh, no, what if they hate it or don't see any value in it?"

"By placing, my worries have been partially relieved. Plus, it means a lot to interact with other students in the A&M System, that may not be a part of our everyday lives, but they are still peers."

Powell's research used data from the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to focus on international diversity's effects on research and development intensity at the regional (triad) level, within the chemical and pharmaceutical industries.

This is the third year in a row that a TAMIU Ph.D. student from the University's College of Business Administration received the honor.

Tagi Sagafi-nejad, Ph. D. Program in International Business Administration director and Radcliffe Killam Distinguished



SAGAFI-NEJAD

Professor, explained the significance of TAMIU's honors.

"Participation by Ph.D. students in the 'Pathways to the Ph.D.' is a significant event in their scholarly

pursuits," Sagafi-nejad. "The fact that they have brought back awards year after year shows that our students are competitive in the scholarly arena.

"Prizes they have brought back from the Pathways Competition demonstrate that they are promising scholars who will continue to shine in the academic field when they receive their doctorates from TAMIU," Sagafi-nejad added.

Other TAMIU doctoral students presenting their research at the Conference were Da Huo and Kranti Dugar. Huo's research explored the influence of currency valuation on the Chinese and world steel markets. Dugar's research dealt with admissions procedures and programs at U.S. and Indian business schools.

The Pathways to the Ph.D. program is an A&M System-wide initiative to encourage students — from undergraduate to Ph.D. levels — to pursue their doctoral studies. Each year, the initiative hosts its research symposium at a different system site so that students can share their innovative research outcomes.

For more information on the Ph.D. Program in International Business Administration, call Sagafi-nejad at 326-2512, e-mail Tagi.Sagafi@tamiu.edu or visit offices in Western Hemispheric Trade Center, room 219C.

University office hours are 8 a.m. - 5 p.m., Monday - Friday.