

# What Kind of Mathematician is He?

Throughout his career, Richard Alfred Tapia has had the support of his family. His mother was especially an inspiration to him. She taught him and his siblings to never give up, believe in themselves, respect others, and to work hard. It was this support that would motivate Tapia to rise above the racial standards of his day.

Tapia's desire to pursue mathematics started at an early age. From the first grade on, Tapia and his twin brother had been good at math. While at Harbor Junior College in Wilmington, California, Tapia's professors saw his mathematical talents and encouraged him to apply to UCLA. It was here that he earned his B.A., M.A., and Ph.D in mathematics.

Today, most of Tapia's work is in the area of Applied Mathematics. He has written three books, two of which were with J.R. Thompson. He has also written over 60 papers including, The Weak Newton Method and Boundary Value Problems, The Differentiation and Integration of Nonlinear Operators, Nonlinear Functional Analysis and Applications, and An Application of a Newton-like Method to the Euler-Lagrange Equation. His many publications and accomplishments prove that he is truly a prime example of what a great mathematician should be.

