

Vita

Hector R. Mendoza was born on October 28, 1970 in Barquisimeto, Venezuela. After graduating from High School (Colegio La Salle, Barquisimeto, Venezuela) in July 1987, he joined the Aeronautical Engineering program at the Instituto Universitario Politecnico de las Fuerzas Armadas Nacionales, Maracay, Venezuela and obtained his degree in December 1991. He started working for Petroleos de Venezuela (PDVSA) in the Western Division of Exploration and Production since May 1991. From December 1991 to July 1998 he occupied different positions at the Taller Central, La Salina, such as, Contracts Administrator, Planning and Programming Engineer and Assistant Supervisor of the Rotating Equipment Repair Shop. He came to Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University in August 1998 to pursue a Master of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering. He defended his Master's thesis on June 22, 2000. He will return to Venezuela to continue his career in Petroleos de Venezuela (PDVSA).