

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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**Great Minds in STEM™ Announces Class of 2014 HENAAC Scholars**  
*GMiS Awards Over \$300,000 in College Scholarships*

Monterey Park, CA, September 26, 2014 – Now in its 26<sup>th</sup> year of promoting Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) to underserved and underrepresented communities, Great Minds in STEM™ (GMiS) is pleased to announce the 108 students of its Class of 2014 HENAAC Scholars. This class of awardees represents the outstanding scholastic achievements of some of the nation's most technically-talented underserved students. Over 800 qualified applications were received for this scholarship competition.

GMiS awards these merit-based scholarships in three categories: Corporate/Federal Agency-Sponsored Scholarships; Special Recognition Scholarships; and *In Memoriam* and Personal Tribute Scholarships. Additionally, GMiS presents two special leadership awards to the top graduate student and undergraduate student who have demonstrated outstanding leadership and technical talent as an emerging STEM scholar in the classroom, in their research, and in the Hispanic community.

The recipient of the HENAAC Undergraduate Student Leadership Award is Mr. Ernesto Covarrubias, a senior mechanical engineering student at California State University, Los Angeles. Ernesto has been a Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation Program student conducting research and represents the College of Engineering, Computer Science and Technology on the university's Associated Students Incorporated Board of Directors. Marlene Patino, an aerospace engineering doctoral candidate at the University of California, Los Angeles, is the recipient of the HENAAC Graduate Student Leadership Award. She has performed cutting-edge research in plasma physics in the application of propulsion devices at both the NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory and Princeton Plasma Physics Laboratory. Outside the classroom she is involved with the community and is an active ballet folklorico dancer. Both of these students shine as outstanding role models for the Hispanic community.

In addition to the scholarship, GMiS subsidizes close to \$1,000 in travel, registration and hotel accommodations costs for each scholar to attend the 26<sup>th</sup> Annual HENAAC Conference, in New Orleans, from October 2 – 4, 2014. Scholars will be honored during the Student Leadership Dinner, on Saturday, October 4, 2014, at the Hyatt Regency New Orleans.

Following is a listing of the Class of 2014 HENAAC Scholars. Please visit the GMiS website for additional updates.

If you are interested in supporting the Great Minds in STEM HENAAC Scholars Program, please contact Dr. Gary Cruz at [gcruz@greatmindsinstem.org](mailto:gcruz@greatmindsinstem.org).

## STUDENT LEADERSHIP AWARDS

### HENAAC/Undergraduate Student Leadership Award

*(Sponsored by The Chrysler Foundation)*

Ernesto Covarrubias  
Mechanical Engineering  
California State University, Los Angeles

### HENAAC/Graduate Student Leadership Award

*(Sponsored by Ray and Carmela Mellado)*

Marlene Patino  
Aerospace Engineering  
University of California, Los Angeles

## CORPORATE-SPONSORED SCHOLARSHIPS

### HENAAC/Booz Allen Hamilton

Wigberto Maldonado-Computer Engineering University of Puerto Rico at Mayaguez  
Rodriguez

### HENAAC/Cummins, Inc.

Paulina Almada Mechanical Engineering University of Texas at El Paso  
Amanda Montoya Materials Engineering New Mexico Institute of Mining and  
Technology  
Jorge Ramirez Mechanical Engineering University of Texas at El Paso

### HENAAC/Dow Chemical

Mark Alvarez Mechanical Engineering California State University, Los Angeles  
Ramiro Brigueda Chemical Engineering University of Oklahoma  
Austin Cruz Chemical Engineering University of Wisconsin, Madison  
Adrian Ramirez Mechanical Engineering University of Texas at El Paso

### HENAAC/EMC Corporation

Arnold Cespedes Computer Engineering University of Puerto Rico at Mayaguez  
Karen Fernandez Computer Science Florida International University  
Esther Rios-Lopez Computer Engineering University of Puerto Rico at Mayaguez  
Alexander Padin Computer Science University of Puerto Rico at Mayaguez  
Kathia Torres Computer Engineering University of Puerto Rico at Mayaguez

### HENAAC/Entergy

Sebastian Salazar Electrical Engineering University of New Orleans

### HENAAC/Lockheed Martin Corporation

Roya Edalatpour Electrical Engineering University of Texas at El Paso  
Keishly Fernandez Electrical Engineering University of Puerto Rico at Mayaguez  
Alan Gonzalez Electrical and Computer Engineering California State University, Los Angeles  
Carlos Martinez Electrical Engineering University of Southern California  
Martin Sandoval Electrical Engineering California State University, Los Angeles  
Neel Shah Computer Engineering Northeastern University  
Randall Van Why Computer Science and Mathematics New Mexico Institute of Mining and  
Technology

**HENAAC/McAfee**

Triana Carmenate                      Computer Science                      Florida International University

**HENAAC/Najera Consulting, Inc.**

Alberto Magana                      Civil and Environmental Engineering                      University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign  
Noemi Salazar                      Mechanical Engineering                      University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

**HENAAC/NASA Johnson Space Center**

Eric Chaidez                      Electrical Engineering                      University of Texas at El Paso  
Stephanie Chavez                      Aerospace Engineering                      California State Polytechnic University,  
Pomona  
Griselda Coreas                      Computer Engineering                      Texas A&M University  
Jessica Escobar                      Electrical Engineering                      University of Texas at Austin  
Emanuel Estrada                      Computer Science                      Texas A&M University  
Manuel Retana                      Mechanical Engineering                      University of Nevada, Reno

**HENAAC/NASA Langley Research Center**

Laurence Garcia                      Chemical Engineering                      Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State  
University  
Kaitlyn Masiak                      Biology                      George Mason University

**HENAAC/NASA Marshall Space Flight Center**

Dulce Castro                      Electrical and Computer Engineering                      University of Florida  
Michael Chavez                      Mechanical Engineering                      University of California, Santa Barbara  
Karina Quintana                      Electrical Engineering                      Florida International University  
Ivan Ramirez                      Aerospace Engineering                      Georgia Institute of Technology  
Victor Rosario-Melendez                      Mechanical Engineering                      University of Puerto Rico

**HENAAC/Northrop Grumman Corporation**

Kelsey DeJesus-Banos                      Computer/Electrical Engineering                      Florida Institute of Technology  
Francisco Garcia-Salas                      Electrical Engineering                      University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign  
Francisco Lopez                      Computer Science/Symbolic Systems                      Stanford University

**HENAAC/Rockwell Collins**

Karla Leyva                      Electrical and Computer Engineering                      University of Texas at El Paso  
Eduardo Miranda                      Mechanical Engineering                      University of Texas at El Paso  
Jessica Montes                      Electrical Engineering                      University of Texas at El Paso

**HENAAC/Southern California Edison**

Michell Aranda                      Mechanical Engineering                      California State Polytechnic University,  
Pomona  
Anthony Becerril                      Electrical Engineering                      California State University, Long Beach  
Gabriela Bran                      Mechanical Engineering                      University of California, Los Angeles  
Guadalupe Cortes                      Civil Engineering                      California State Polytechnic University,  
Pomona

Frank Garcia	Electrical Engineering	California State Polytechnic University, Pomona
Cody Gonzalez Gema Loera	Mechanical Engineering Civil Engineering	University of California, Riverside California State Polytechnic University, Pomona
Alexander Sosa	Electrical Engineering	California State Polytechnic University, Pomona
Samantha Sotez Carlos Torres, Jr.	Mechanical Engineering Electrical Engineering	California State University, Los Angeles University of California, Los Angeles

#### **HENAAC/The Chrysler Foundation**

Christian Cabrera	Electrical Engineering	California State University, Los Angeles
Joselyn Cardenas	Mechanical Engineering	University of Texas at El Paso
Ernesto Covarrubias	Mechanical Engineering	California State University, Los Angeles
Christian Gomez	Mathematics	University of California, Los Angeles
Maria Medina-Alva	Industrial Engineering	California State Polytechnic University, Pomona
Patrick Sellas	Mechanical Engineering	California State Polytechnic University, Pomona

#### **HENAAC/Union Pacific Railroad**

Bryan Leon	Electrical Engineering	University of Texas at Austin
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### **SPECIAL RECOGNITION SCHOLARSHIPS**

#### **\$10,000 U.S. Navy STEM Scholarship** *(Sponsored by NAVSEA & SSP)*

Aida Arellano	Biomedical Engineering	Florida International University
Elizabeth Berry	Civil Engineering	California State University, Fresno
Thomas Castanon	Chemical Engineering	Texas A&M University – Kingsville
Giselle Castillo	Biology	University of Texas at San Antonio
Matthew Dorman	Engineering Physics	University of New Mexico
Tania Diaz	Physics	University of Puerto Rico
Elizabeth Favela	Engineering	University of Texas at El Paso
Jonathan Galaviz	Computer Engineering	California State University, Long Beach
Joachim Lohn-Jaramillo	Mechanical Engineering	New Mexico Institute of Mining & Technology
Victor Mendez	Engineering	University of Texas at San Antonio
Shirin Mesleh	Chemistry	University of Puerto Rico-Campus Rio Piedras
Brianna Morales	Biomedical Engineering	University of Texas at San Antonio
Andres Ramirez-Cuellar	Mechanical Engineering	City College of New York, CUNY
Alejandra Soltero	Mechanical Engineering	University of Texas at El Paso
Hugo Tejeda, Jr.	Civil Engineering	California State Polytechnic University, Pomona

#### **Great Minds in STEM Future STEM Leaders Scholarship**

Rudolf “Monty” Montiel	Mechanical Engineering	Arizona State University
Jessica Bermudez	Bioengineering	The University of Pennsylvania

**National Football Hall of Fame – San Gabriel Valley/Pasadena Chapter Scholarship**

Christian Clark	Kinesiology	Occidental College
Adrien Perez	Kinesiology	Whittier College
Jose Robles	Aerospace Engineering	California State University, Los Angeles

**GMiS STEM Showdown™ Scholarship**  
*(Sponsored by Shell Oil Company)*

Ricky Guidry	Secondary Education Biology	University of New Orleans
Susan Nguyen	Math	University of New Orleans
Brandy Vann	Secondary Biology Education	University of New Orleans

**HOLA at NASA Kennedy Space Center Scholarship**  
*(Sponsored by the Hispanic Outreach & Leadership Alliance)*

Brandon Lopez	Aeronautical Engineering	University of Central Florida
Jair Reich	Chemical Engineering	University of South Florida

**IN MEMORIAM AND PERSONAL TRIBUTE SCHOLARSHIPS**

**HENAAC/Amezcu Family Scholarship**  
*(Sponsored by Robert and Debbie Amezcua)*

Leslie Prat	Mechanical Engineering	University of Texas at El Paso
Rodolfo Aguirre	Electrical Engineering	University of Texas at El Paso

**HENAAC/Ann Seki Memorial Scholarship**  
*(Sponsored by Chevron)*

Logan Davidson	Chemical Engineering	University of Southern Colorado
David Perez-Aguilar	Chemical Engineering	University of California, San Diego

**HENAAC/Davila-Treviño Memorial Scholarship**

Edward Castillo	Electrical Engineering	University of Texas at San Antonio
Armando Contreras	Industrial Distribution	Texas A&M University
Kim Dominguez	Industrial Engineering	University of Texas at El Paso
Roberto Garcia	Mechanical Engineering	Southern Methodist University
Lluvia Herrera	Mechanical Engineering	University of Texas at El Paso
Nohemi Mora	Environmental Engineering	Southern Methodist University
Kymeri Morales	Forensic Chemistry	Sam Houston State University
Arturo Ortega	Biochemistry	University of Texas at El Paso
Federico Salinas	Mechanical Engineering	University of Texas at Austin
Alicia Sanchez	Biology & Mathematics	St. Mary's University

**HENAAC/Jose R. Silva Memorial Scholarship**  
*(Sponsored by Raytheon)*

Jacquelyn Trevino	Computer Engineering	Texas A&M University
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**HENAAC/Leticia S. Montiel Memorial Scholarship**  
*(Sponsored by Rudy Montiel)*

Ana Guzman  
Lisa Haisan

Civil Engineering  
Civil Engineering

University of Texas at El Paso  
University of Texas at El Paso

**HENAAC/Ray & Carmela Mellado Scholarship**

Pearl Ortega  
Marlene Patino

Industrial Engineering  
Aerospace Engineering

Texas A&M University  
University of California, Los Angeles

**HENAAC/Victoria Alegria Tracy Memorial Scholarship**

*(Sponsored by Dr. and Mrs. John Tracy)*

Liliana Montes de Oca  
Leticia Santana

Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering  
Mechanical Engineering

California State University, Los Angeles  
California State University, Los Angeles

**About Great Minds in STEM™**

Great Minds in STEM™ is an education, national 501(c)3 nonprofit, whose vision is to be a national leader in keeping America technologically strong by promoting science, technology, engineering and math careers especially in underserved communities. Now, in its 25<sup>th</sup> year, it remains the only national entity, which has consistently recognized the esteemed technical achievements of STEM role models through a selective, peer-reviewed process. For more information on the event, please contact Julie Magallanes-Guevara, Manager of Public Affairs at (213) 435-9934 or (323) 262-0997 ext. 628 and visit the Great Minds in STEM™ website at [www.greatmindsinstem.org](http://www.greatmindsinstem.org).

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