

# Press Release

August 12, 2016

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## Great Minds in STEM Announces Class of 2016 Military & Civilian STEM Honorees

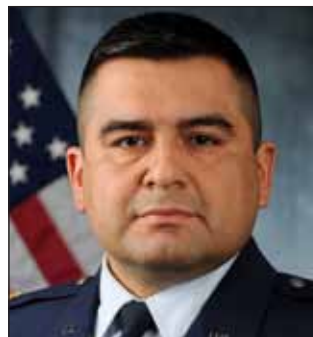
**Monterey Park, CA** – Great Minds in STEM is proud to announce the 2016 Class of military and civilian honorees from our nation's armed forces. For twenty-eight years, Great Minds in STEM™ has identified and showcased the achievements of the nation's most talented engineers and scientists within the Hispanic community. Recognizing the unique role of our nation's military, Great Minds in STEM has a long tradition of honoring civilian and uniformed military personnel in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) fields. These outstanding role models compete in the overall HENAAC Awards categories, and for the STEM Military and Civilian Hero Awards. The honorees will be honored at the 2016 HENAAC Conference, "Excellence Through Diversity," in Anaheim, CA. HENAAC Award winners will be recognized at the Awards Show on Friday, October 7, and the STEM Hero honorees will receive their awards at the Salute to National Defense Dinner Thursday, October 6.

## 2016 HENAAC Award Winners



### EXECUTIVE EXCELLENCE

Rear Admiral  
James E. Rendon  
Superintendent  
United States  
Coast Guard Academy  
U.S. Coast Guard



### MOST PROMISING ENGINEER OR SCIENTIST, MASTER'S DEGREE

Manuel Trejo Jr.  
Microelectronics Program  
Manager/ Engineering Leader  
Trusted Access Program Office  
U.S. Air Force



### CIVIL ENGINEERING

Gerardo I Velazquez  
Research Civil Engineer, Structural  
Engineering Branch, Geosciences  
and Structural Division, Geotech-  
nical Structures Laboratory, U.S.  
Army Engineer Research & Develop-  
ment Center, U.S. Army Corps  
of Engineers, U.S. Army

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## 2016 STEM Hero Award Winners



**John Jeremy Bouvet**  
Chief Engineer  
Multi Mission Space  
Operations Center  
Ground Systems and  
Space Operation Division  
U.S. Air Force



**Luis A. Cruz**  
Ground Test Lead, NH IV  
Integrated Master Test Plan Division  
Directorate for Test Planning and Design  
Missile Defense Agency



**LTJG Juan P.  
Herrera Mauer**  
Squadron Weapons Officer  
Submarine Squadron Six  
U.S. Navy



**Sheyla Matos**  
Mechanical Engineer  
Quality and Continuous Process  
Improvement Office  
Naval Surface Warfare Center  
Panama City Division  
NAVSEA  
U.S. Navy



**Major Luis J. Munoz**  
Chief  
Enterprise Integration Branch  
Global Positioning System  
Directorate  
U.S. Air Force



**Manuel B. Noesi**  
System Integration Engineer  
Space and Naval Warfare  
Systems Center Atlantic  
New Orleans Detachment  
U.S. Navy



**Hector Santiago**  
Project Manager, Section A  
Environmental Remediation  
Branch, Programs & Project  
Management Division  
U.S. Army Corps of  
Engineers  
U.S. Army



**LTJG Jesuar I. Smith**  
Chief  
Programmed Depot Maintenance Section  
Center Patrol Boat Product Line  
Surface Forces Logistics Center  
United States Coast Guard

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## About the Organization

Great Minds in STEM™ is a 501(c)3 a non-profit organization dedicated to keeping America technologically strong by promoting Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) careers, especially in underserved communities. Established in 1989 and based in the Los Angeles area, the organization's nation-wide programming focuses on STEM educational awareness from kindergarten through college, and on seeking-out and documenting the world-class contributions of Hispanic professionals in STEM to serve as role models for the next generation of American engineers and scientists.

Great Minds in STEM's annual HENAAC Conference is the organization's flagship event where all elements of outreach and programming come together to celebrate Hispanic excellence in STEM. The conference features executive forums, seminars, competitive programs, career opportunities and networking sessions and is attended by over 3,000 STEM students and professionals annually.

For 2016, Great Minds in STEM is partnering with MAES - Latinos in Science and Engineering, who will hold their annual Symposium at the HENAAC Conference, and CAHSI (the Computing Alliance of Hispanic Serving Institutions) who have chosen the Conference as the venue for their annual Summit as well.

For more information about Great Minds in STEM and the 2016 HENAAC Conference, please visit us online at:

[www.greatmindsinstem.org](http://www.greatmindsinstem.org)



October 5-9, 2016

IN PROUD ASSOCIATION WITH

