

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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**Viva Technology™ Student Day at Southwest Academy Magnet School in Baltimore, MD**  
*Brought to you by Great Minds in STEM and STEM Diversity Campaign*

*Monterey Park, CA, May 26, 2016* – Great Minds in STEM™ (GMiS) with the generous support of STEM Diversity Campaign initiative for Building Engineering and Science Talent's (BEST), showcased a Viva Technology™ student program at Southwest Academy Magnet School for Science and Engineering in Baltimore, Maryland on May 20. This marked the first time a Viva Technology™ program was conducted at the school.

GMiS' national K-12 education program is designed to engage students, teachers and parents with STEM challenges that stimulate their interest in the applications of technology and provide a STEM-focused career pathway. When asked about the program, Southwest Academy educator, Mrs. Claudia Johnson expressed, "we were very excited for our stakeholders and partners to be able to come together and work with our students and to have that real world application of what it looks like to be part of a team."

On Friday, May 20, 122 middle school students participated in the Viva Technology™ Student Day. Selected students experienced a full day of STEM project-based exercises that challenge their understanding of the Engineering and Science Design Process. Local STEM college students were on-hand to serve as *College Captains*, as part of our civic service leader program whereby they serve a role of a near-peer mentor and help their assigned teams through the challenges. Guest speakers, Dr. Rochelle Williams, Program and Research Director from the Accreditation Board of Engineering and Technology (ABET) and Dr. Jarris L. Taylor Jr., Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for the Strategic Diversity Integration were on-hand to speak with students.

Southwest Academy Magnet, offers students a rigorous program of study designed to develop 21st Century skills and to increase their knowledge of environmental science, aquatic science, and technology skills via the Gateway to Technology Program—Project Lead the Way® (GTT/PLTW). The Magnet Program is also designed to provide students with a solid foundation to attend college and pursue careers in STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics)-related fields.

**About Great Minds in STEM™**

Great Minds in STEM™ is a national 501(c)3 nonprofit organization based in Los Angeles County with a 28-year history of keeping America technologically strong through the delivery of national STEM awareness programs especially to underserved communities. Through the GMiS network, academic, career development and mentoring opportunities are offered to students who are underrepresented in STEM fields. The organization is focused on working to build a diverse 21st Century STEM workforce in which all citizens contribute to innovation and experience prosperity.