



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

11 Finalist Universities Compete in U.S. Army Combat Capabilities Development Command's Innaugural HBCU/MI Design Competition

El Paso, TX April 24, 2019 – Great Minds in STEM partnered with the U.S. Army Combat Capabilities Development Command (CCDC) to deliver their first-ever design competition for Historically Black Colleges & Universities (HBCUs) and Minority Institutions (MIs). The two-day event, hosted by the University of Texas at El Paso, was the culmination of months of extracurricular work by nearly 100 college students and faculty members that composed the finalist teams.

Eleven universities were selected from a competitive pool of submissions and invited to build a working aerial drone based on one of two sets of specifications. Subject matter experts and senior executives from across U.S. Army CCDC served as judges who evaluated and scored teams' technical poster presentations and the drones themselves. Students then subjected their drones to the obstacle course set-up on the historic UTEP Sun Bowl Stadium field as over 2,000 local high school and middle school students cheered them on. Major General Cedric T. Wins, Commanding General, U.S. Army CCDC, presided over the entire competition.

The eleven finalist teams were Grambling State University, the Interamerican University of Puerto Rico, North Carolina A&T State University, Spelman College, Tuskegee University, the University of Illinois at Chicago, the University of Maryland Eastern Shore, the University of Puerto Rico at Mayagüez, the University of Texas at Arlington, the University of Texas at El Paso, and the University of Texas at San Antonio. The University of Illinois at Chicago finished in third place and took home \$3,000. The University of Texas at El Paso took second place and \$4,000. And the Interamerican University of Puerto Rico finished in the top spot and claimed the \$5,000 prize.

GMiS salutes all eleven finalist teams and congratulates Major General Wins and the entire U.S. Army CCDC competition team.

About U.S. Army CCDC

The mission of the U.S. Army Combat Capabilities Development Command is to provide innovative research, development and engineering to produce capabilities that provide decisive overmatch to the Army against the complexities of the current and future operating environments in support of the joint warfighter and the nation. The Vision of CCDC is to be the Army's enabling command in the development and delivery of capabilities that unburden, empower, and protect the Warfighter.

About Great Minds in STEM

Great Minds in STEM™ is a national 501(c)3 nonprofit organization based in Los Angeles County with a 31-year history of keeping America technologically strong through the delivery of national STEM awareness programs for students, parents and teachers in underserved communities. Through the GMiS network, academic and career development opportunities are offered to underrepresented students 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. For more information please visit www.greatmindsinstem.org.