

# Press Release

October 5, 2020

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Great Minds in STEM Announces Student Video Choice Awards

**Montebello, CA** – Great Minds in STEM (GMiS) is pleased to announce the winners of its inaugural Student Video Choice Awards. This year, college students, who participated in the virtual 2020 GMiS Conference were invited to submit a 30-second video showcasing the motivation to pursue their dream to become a STEM professional. Contestants were encouraged to be creative in delivering an upbeat, positive and encouraging message on how GMiS impacted their career goals and aspirations. The videos were evaluated on their motivational and inspiring message; the extent to which it encouraged pre-college students to pursue STEM careers; and its overall fun, upbeat and creative delivery.

Videos ranged from a rap song to flying in outer space to STEM in rural communities. The top four videos will be showcased during the virtual Student Leadership Awards Show on Thursday, October 8. GMiS awarded \$5,200 in cash prizes to the top winners and honorable mentions.

The winning videos can be accessed online at <https://gmisconference.org/video-awards.html>

Congratulations to the following winners:

### FIRST PLACE - \$1,000

#### *Best Overall - Engineering*

Josue Perez  
Mechanical Engineering  
University of Texas Rio Grande Valley

#### *Best Overall – Computer Science*

Andrea Nicol Barrios  
Computer Science  
California State University, Los Angeles

### SECOND PLACE - \$750

#### *Inclusion of Family and Originality*

Wesley Combs  
Biomedical Engineering  
University of Houston

#### *Humanitarian*

Diana Velasquez  
Biomedical Engineering  
Illinois Institute of Technology

### HONORABLE MENTION - \$100

Raymond Chenoweth - University of Central Florida  
Alejandro Colina-Valeri - Tufts University  
Patricia Garcia - Florida International University  
Brian Gonzalez - University of Texas at El Paso  
Abel Guillen - California State University, Los Angeles  
Jasmine Lopez-Gutierrez - California State University, Los Angeles

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Theodore “Ted” Martin - Florida Institute of Technology  
Elena Martinez - Loyola Marymount University  
William Morlan - New Mexico State University  
Andrea Mungroo - University of Central Florida  
Kimberly Ortiz - California State University, Los Angeles  
David Pardo - California State University, Los Angeles  
Madhuri Pyreddy - California State University, Fresno  
Adrian Manuel Ruiz - University of Central Florida  
Susana Samayoa - University of Houston – Victoria  
Brianna Soriano - California State University, Long Beach  
Briana Talamantes - California State University, Los Angeles

## About Great Minds in STEM

Great Minds in STEM™ is a 501(c)3 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 national programming focuses on STEM educational awareness from pre-college through college, and on recognizing and documenting the world-class contributions of Hispanic STEM professionals, who serve as role models for the next generation of American engineers and scientists.

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