

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

Julie Magallanes-Guevara  
Manager of Public Affairs  
(213) 435-9934 (C)  
(323) 262-0997 Ext. 628 (O)  
jmguevara@greatmindsinstem.org

**Great Minds in STEM and Shell Oil Company Showcase STEM Showdown™**  
*High School & College Students Connect for a Competition of the Minds*

Monterey Park, CA, November 5, 2014 – Now in its fourth year, Great Minds in STEM (GMiS) in partnership with Shell Oil Company, will host the nationally-recognized STEM Showdown™. The event is set to take place on November 7, 2014 at the University of Houston, making it the first time it will be held in Houston, Texas community. Previously, Showdown programs have been conducted at the University of New Orleans in Louisiana.

The STEM Showdown™ brings together underserved high school and college students to compete in a series of intense science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) challenges. Teams comprised of both high school and college students participate in active learning exercises designed to foster an interest in the applications of technology. Students leave the program understanding the correlation between their math and science studies and future STEM careers.

The event will host approximately 125 high school students from Energy Institute High School, Charles H. Milby High School, Young Woman's College Preparatory Academy and both Southwest and Westside High School. College students from the University of Houston, University of Houston-Downtown, Rice University, Texas Christian University and Texas A&M University will work in partnership with the high school students. Parents and teachers will participate in simultaneous workshops held in collaboration with the Shell Oil Company and local university partners regarding college access, financial aid, and current issues pertaining to STEM education.

Kenneth Garcia, Academic Advisor for the University of Houston's College of Engineering division will be in attendance to welcome students, as well as Shell Oil Company's, Michael Alvarez, Workforce Development Initiative Manager. "Shell is proud to partner with Great Minds in STEM to bring the Viva Technology™ Shell STEM Showdown to Houston," said Mr. Alvarez. "Shell will need the best and brightest minds from all races and backgrounds to meet tomorrow's energy challenges. As "baby boomers" are retiring, they are leaving a knowledge gap. Where will our future hires come from – the geologists, physicists, researchers and engineers we need? Programs like the Viva Technology™ - Shell STEM Showdown highlights the importance of math and science in our ever changing world and encourages students to study and pursue careers in STEM related fields." Serving as the day's keynote speaker from the Shell Oil team will be Juan Hinojosa, Senior Engineer at Shell's Deer Park Refining Company.

**About Great Minds in STEM™**

Great Minds in STEM™ is a national 501(c)3 nonprofit organization based in Los Angeles County. GMiS is proud to celebrate 26 years of keeping America technologically strong through the delivery of national science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) awareness programs

for students, parents and teachers in underserved communities; providing opportunities for the academic and career development of underrepresented students and professionals in STEM; and honoring the excellent contributions of our nation's Hispanic engineers and scientists. With a national presence through its education programs as well as its college and professional offerings, the organization is working to ensure that the U.S. maintains its status as the world's technology leader.

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