

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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**Great Minds in STEM and Shell Oil Present STEM Showdown™**

*Louisiana High School & College Students Connect for a Competition of the Minds*

Monterey Park, CA, April 11, 2014 – Shell Oil Company is teaming up with Great Minds in STEM™ (GMiS) to host the nationally-recognized GMiS STEM Showdown™, in New Orleans, on Friday, April 11, 2014, at the Lindy Boggs International Conference Center - University of New Orleans. The event is set to begin at 8:30 AM.

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 stimulate 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 100 high school students from Eleanor McMain High School, Hammond High Magnet School, McDonogh 35 Preparatory High School, Scotlandville Magnet High School, and St. Joseph's Academy. College students from Louisiana State University, Southeastern Louisiana University, Southern University and A&M College, Tulane University, and the University of New Orleans 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. Ms. Tonya Williams, Auger Area Development Lead for Shell Exploration & Production will be present introductory remarks, and Naresh Copeland, Engineer for Shell Oil will serve as the day's keynote speaker. Shell Oil is a founding sponsor of the STEM Showdown™ and a champion of GMiS' education efforts to expose students to STEM Careers for over 10 years. This is the fourth GMiS STEM Showdown™ held in Louisiana and supported by the Shell Oil 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. For more information, please contact Julie Magallanes-Guevara, Manager of Public Affairs at (213) 435-9934 or (323) 262-0997 ext. 628 and visit the Great Minds in STEM™ website at [www.greatmindsinstem.org](http://www.greatmindsinstem.org).

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