

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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**Great Minds in STEM™ Brings STEM to Lafayette, Louisiana**

*GMiS and Shell Oil Company Showcase Viva Technology™ Program at Lafayette High School*

*Monterey Park, CA, August 21, 2014* - Great Minds in STEM™ (GMiS) with support from Shell Oil Company will showcase a Viva Technology™ Program for the first time at Lafayette High School. Lafayette High School, located in Lafayette, Louisiana, will host Viva Technology™ on Friday, August 22, 2014, from 8AM – 3PM.

The event, brings a heightened level of awareness, inspiration and motivation in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). Evette Torres, Workforce Development Specialist from Shell Oil Company, will be on hand to speak with parents and teachers, as well as interact with participating students.

Viva Technology™ is GMiS' national K-12 education program 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. The student component – Viva Technology™ Student Day – will host up to 120 high school students from Lafayette High School. Students will experience a full day of STEM project-based exercises that challenge their understanding of the Engineering and Science Design Process. Local STEM college students serve as College Captain near peer mentors guiding the teams through the challenges.

The teacher component will provide educators with culturally-relevant STEM resources to enrich their classroom environment. The parent component will provide information to help parents encourage their children to excel in math and science and envision themselves as future engineers and scientists.

Since 2001, Viva Technology™ has reached over 100,000 students, teachers and parents across 18 states.

**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 25 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 visit the Great Minds in STEM™ website at [www.greatmindsinstem.org](http://www.greatmindsinstem.org)

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