

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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**Great Minds in STEM™ and the Northrop Grumman Foundation Bring  
STEM Program to South Gate Middle School**

*South Gate, CA, March 28, 2014* - Great Minds in STEM™ (GMiS) with support from the Northrop Grumman Foundation, is pleased to bring a Viva Technology™ Program to South Gate Middle School in Los Angeles, CA on Thursday, March 27, 2014 from 12PM - 7PM and Friday, March 28, 2014, from 8AM – 2PM.

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 teacher component will provide educators with STEM resources to enrich their classroom environment. The parent component, conducted in both English and Spanish, will provide information to help parents encourage their children to excel in math and science and envision themselves as future engineers and scientists. Three Northrop Grumman employees will be present on Thursday during the parent and teacher portions of the program. South Gate Middle School Alum, Rosa Maerz, Electrical Subsystem Engineer, will participate during the teacher program. GMiS' 2013 Engineer of the Year, Christopher Hernandez, Vice President of Advanced Weapons Systems Aerospace Systems, as well as Program Integration Manager, Rudy Loera, Community Service Winner will be available to speak to both teachers and parents.

The student component, Viva Technology™ Student Day, which will take place on Friday, will host approximately 120 middle school students who 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. A multitude of professional Northrop Grumman volunteers will be in attendance, including Vice President of Corporate Responsibility, Sandra Evers-Manly, and presenting the introductory remarks will be past GMiS Award Winner, Frank Flores, Vice President of Northrop Grumman Corporation's Engineering Unmanned Systems Aerospace Systems. Serving as the event's key note speaker will be South Gate Middle School Alum Jose Padilla, RF Microwave Design Engineer.

**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 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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