

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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**Great Minds in STEM™ Elects Ralph de la Vega and Enrique Lavernia, Ph.D. into HENAAC Hall of Fame**

*Monterey Park, CA, September 12, 2014* – Great Minds in STEM™ (GMiS), HENAAC Hall of Fame Committee Chair, Linda Cubero and Dr. Dan Arvizu, HENAAC Hall of Fame Peer Review Committee Chairman, are pleased to announce the election of Ralph de la Vega and Enrique Lavernia, Ph.D. into the HENAAC Hall of Fame. Mr. de la Vega will be formally inducted at the 26<sup>th</sup> Annual HENAAC Conference during the Awards Show on Friday, October 3, 2014 at the Hyatt Regency in New Orleans, LA. Dr. Lavernia will be inducted in 2015 in Pasadena, CA.

GMiS established the HENAAC Hall of Fame in 1998 to recognize the world-class achievements of its most accomplished winners. Members of the Hall of Fame have achieved a level of excellence that opens doors to advances in science, technology, engineering and math, and opens minds about the contributions of Hispanics in these fields. With the induction of Mr. Ralph de la Vega and Dr. Lavernia, the Hall of Fame will be comprised of 36 distinguished members.

**Mr. Ralph de la Vega** was appointed President and CEO of the newly created AT&T Mobile and Business Solutions (MBS) organization in August 2014. In this new role, Mr. de la Vega will oversee the company's wireless and business services operations, which serves more than 110 million mobile consumers and more than 3.5 million business customers in 100 countries globally. He previously served as President and CEO of AT&T Mobility, a position he held since 2007. As an industry leader, Mr. de la Vega believes it is important to connect with the youth who will become tomorrow's leaders. He actively supports nonprofit and youth organizations, serving as chairman of All-Markets Initiatives for the Boy Scouts of America. Mr. de la Vega holds a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering from Florida Atlantic University (FAU) and a master's degree in business administration from Northern Illinois University. He also completed the Executive Program at the University of Virginia and received an honorary doctorate from FAU. GMiS named him Engineer of the Year in 2010.

**Dr. Enrique Lavernia**, a trailblazer who paved the way for important discoveries and research, is currently dean of the University of California Davis College of Engineering, a position he has held since 2002. Prior to his arrival at Davis, he served as Chair and Chancellor's Professor in the Department of Chemical Engineering and Materials Science at UC Irvine. Along with an impressive list of publications, Dr. Lavernia has worked hard to ensure the continued growth and prestige of the UC Davis College of Engineering. Dr. Lavernia obtained his undergraduate degree in solid mechanics from Brown University, and both a master's in metallurgy and doctoral degree in materials engineering from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Dr. Lavernia was honored by GMiS with an Outstanding Technical Achievement Award in 2011 and is a prestigious member of the National Academy of Engineering.

For more information on the 26<sup>th</sup> Annual HENAAC Conference or the Great Minds in STEM™ organization please visit [www.greatmindsinstem.org](http://www.greatmindsinstem.org)

**Great Minds in STEM™ Vision**

Be a national leader in keeping America technologically strong by promoting Science, Technology, Engineering and Math careers especially in underserved communities