

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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**Great Minds in STEM™ Announces STEM Military & Civilian Heroes of 2014**  
*Protecting and Serving our Nation Through Outstanding STEM Skills*

Monterey Park, CA – August 5, 2014 - Great Minds in STEM® proudly announces the class of 2014 STEM Military and Civilian Heroes. These talented professionals in science, technology, engineering and mathematics, who by their dedication and aptitude lead the course of keeping our nation and war fighters safe through STEM, will be honored at the 26<sup>th</sup> Annual HENAAC Conference, "The Quest for Competitive Greatness," in New Orleans, LA, October 2-4, 2014.

For twenty-six years, Great Minds in STEM® (GMiS) has showcased the accomplishments of the brightest engineers and scientists within the Hispanic community at our annual conference. GMiS recognizes the contributions of these influential STEM heroes, who represent our nation's military branches. Please join us as we congratulate the following exemplary Military & Civilian honorees.

**2014 STEM Military & Civilian Heroes**

The following Military and Civilian Heroes will be honored during the Salute to our STEM Military & Civilian Heroes Reception, which will be held on Thursday, October 2, 2014:

Captain Jose M. Banales  
Chief Engineer  
25th Space Range Squadron  
U.S. Air Force

Mercedes M. Hughes, P.E.  
Registered Structural Engineer  
Louisville District  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Lt Col Jose Rivera, P.E.  
United States Air Force  
Deputy for Programs and Project Management  
Joint Chiefs of Staff AFPAC - Hands Program  
Transatlantic Middle East District  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Sergio Carzoli  
IT Logistics Management Specialist  
Space and Naval Warfare  
Systems Center Pacific  
U.S. Navy

Sonia C. Gallegos, Ph.D.  
Oceanographer III  
Naval Research Laboratory &  
NASA Applied Sciences Technology  
Project Office, Stennis Space Center  
U.S. Navy

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