

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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**UC-Berkeley and UT-El Paso Students Top Scholars Among Class of 2015  
HENAAC Scholars**

*GMiS Awards Its Two Outstanding Student Leadership Awards*

Monterey Park, CA, September 24, 2015 – Now in its 27<sup>th</sup> year of promoting Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) to underserved and underrepresented communities, Great Minds in STEM™ (GMiS) is pleased to name its cohort of 118 students of the Class of 2015 HENAAC Scholars. Over \$390,000 has been awarded to this class of awardees representing the outstanding scholastic achievements of some of the nation's most technically-talented students. Over 1,400 applications were received for this merit-based scholarship competition.

Each year, GMiS selects one undergraduate student and one graduate student that merit the Outstanding Student Leadership Award. This award recognizes students for the highest excellence in their academics, research, leadership and service within the Hispanic community. As STEM Role Models, these students exemplify the qualities of a global STEM innovator and leader.

Maribel Jaquez, is the recipient of the Outstanding Graduate Student Leadership Award. She is a doctoral student pursuing a mechanical engineering degree at the University of California, Berkeley. A high school valedictorian, first generation college student, and cum laude graduate of the University of California, Irvine, Maribel is the recipient of the NSF Bridge to the Doctorate Fellowship. Under the advisement of Professor Oscar Dubon, her research focus is on the structural and optical properties of highly mismatched oxides. Outside the laboratory, Maribel is actively engaged in several student organization leadership positions and outreach to K-12 youth. Maribel is the recipient of a Ray and Carmela Mellado Family Scholarship sponsored by GMiS Chairman and Founder Ray Mellado and his wife, Carmela.

Juan Vargas is the recipient of the Outstanding Undergraduate Student Leadership Award. He is a senior pursuing a metallurgical and materials engineering degree at the University of Texas at El Paso. To date, Juan has maintained a perfect 4.0 GPA and is an active member of the Tau Beta Pi Engineering Honors Society, the Sigma Alpha Lambda Honors Society and Alpha Sigma Mu, the material science honors society. A first generation college student, Juan is an undergraduate research assistant at the W.M Keck Center for 3-D Innovation, conducting research with 3-D rapid prototyping aided by polymer extrusion based systems. He is a participant in the NSF Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation (LSAMP) program, and the recipient of a Cummins, Inc. scholarship.

Other top honors awarded by GMiS include the inaugural cohort of eight graduate student Intel Foundation Scholars receiving a highly-competitive \$10,000 scholarship, and the cohort of 14 incoming freshmen provided a \$10,000 U.S. Navy STEM Scholarship by NAVSEA/SSP.

GMiS awards scholarships in three categories: Corporate/Federal Agency-Sponsored Scholarships; Special Recognition Scholarships; and *In Memoriam* and Personal Tribute Scholarships. In addition to the scholarship, GMiS subsidizes travel, registration and hotel accommodations costs for each scholar to

attend the 27<sup>th</sup> HENAAC STEM Career Conference, in Pasadena, CA, from October 14 – 18, 2015, where scholars have the opportunity to engage with their sponsor.

At the conference, the scholars will be honored during the Scholars Pinning Ceremony and the Student Leadership Dinner. The Scholars Pinning Ceremony will be held on Thursday, October 15, 2015, starting at 9:00 PM. The Student Leadership Dinner will be held on Saturday, October 17, 2015, from 5:30 PM – 7:30 PM. Both events will be at the Pasadena Convention Center.

If you are interested in supporting the Great Minds in STEM HENAAC Scholars Program for the 2015-16 academic year, please contact Dr. Gary Cruz at [gcruz@greatmindsinstem.org](mailto:gcruz@greatmindsinstem.org).

Congratulations again to the GMiS Class of 2015 HENAAC Scholars! Following is the list of scholars.

**\$10,000 Intel Foundation Scholarship**

Melissa Barona	Doctoral	Chemical Engineering	Northwestern University
Juan Barragan	Masters	Mechanical Engineering	University of Texas at El Paso
Triana Carmenate	Masters	Computer Science	Florida International University
Eric Chaidez	Masters	Electrical Engineering	Texas A&M University
Jessica Montes	Masters	Electrical Engineering	University of Texas at El Paso
Vincent Scotti, Jr.	Masters	Info. Assurance/CyberSecurity	Florida Institute of Technology
Neel Shah	Masters	Electrical/Computer Engineering	Northeastern University
Sebastian Zanlongo	Doctoral	Computer Science	Florida International University

**\$10,000 U.S. Navy STEM Scholarship**  
*(Sponsored by NAVSEA & SSP)*

Amanda Acosta	Freshman	Mechanical Engineering	University of Texas at El Paso
Cynthia Aguillon	Freshman	Computer Engineering	University of Texas Rio Grande Valley
Isaac Aldape	Freshman	Mechanical Engineering	California State University, Los Angeles
Celene Cantabrana	Freshman	Engineering	University of California, Merced
Erica De La Cruz	Freshman	Computer Engineering	University of California, Santa Cruz
Damian Garavito	Freshman	Mechanical Engineering	University of New Mexico
Johnathon Garcia	Freshman	Mechanical Engineering	New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology
Patrick Gutierrez	Freshman	Physics	University of Texas at El Paso
Jazmine Madrigal	Freshman	Computer Science	University of New Mexico
Kaitlin Miller	Freshman	Mechanical Engineering	University of Houston
Ricardo Muniz	Freshman	Computer Engineering	University of Puerto Rico at Mayaguez
Andres Ortiz	Freshman	Physics/Mathematics	New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology
Devin Salazar	Freshman	Civil Engineering	University of New Mexico
Genaro Sosa	Freshman	Computer Engineering	California State University, Fullerton

**CORPORATE/FEDERAL AGENCY SPONSORED SCHOLARSHIPS**

Booz Allen Hamilton

Frank Osorio	Junior	Electrical Engineering	Hartnell College
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### Cummins, Inc.

Paulina Almada	Senior	Mechanical Engineering	University of Texas at El Paso
Jose Mendez	Senior	Mechanical Engineering	University of Texas at El Paso
Juan Vargas	Senior	Metallurgical & Materials Eng	University of Texas at El Paso

### Dow Chemical

Antonio Jaramillo	Sophomore	Mechanical Engineering	University of Texas at Austin
Sheri Lopez	Junior	Mechanical Engineering	University of New Mexico

### Edison International

Jessica Barrios	Masters	Civil Engineering	University of Southern California
Elizabeth Berry	Sophomore	Civil Engineering	California State University, Fresno
Alicia Esquivel	Sophomore	Civil Engineering	Loyola Marymount University
Frank Garcia	Senior	Electrical Engineering	California State Polytechnic University, Pomona
Saida Gomez	Senior	Mechanical Engineering	California State Polytechnic University, Pomona
Pyae Hein	Junior	Electrical Engineering	California State University, Los Angeles
Orval Hernandez-Marcial	Masters	Civil Engineering	California State University, Los Angeles
Maria Medina Alva	Senior	Industrial Engineering	California State Polytechnic University, Pomona
Jeovanny Reyes	Junior	Electrical Engineering	California State University, Los Angeles
Martin Sandoval	Senior	Electrical Engineering	California State University, Los Angeles

### EMC<sup>2</sup> Corporation

Natalie Benavidez	Junior	Electrical Engineering	California State University, Los Angeles
Mariana Garcia	Sophomore	Computer Science	California State University, Monterey Bay
Gerardo Sanchez	Senior	Computer Engineering	University of South Florida
Fernando Serna	Sophomore	Computer Science	Washington State University Tri-Cities
Mitchell Topete	Senior	Computer Science	University of California, San Diego

### Lemus Medical

Elina Serrano	Medical Student		University of California, San Francisco
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### Lockheed Martin Corporation

Anthony Becerril	Senior	Electrical Engineering	California State University, Long Beach
Laura Carrasco	Senior	Electrical Engineering	University of Puerto Rico at Mayaguez

Stephanie Chavez	Senior	Aerospace Engineering	California State Polytechnic University, Pomona
Keysha Gonzalez	Senior	Computer Engineering	University of Puerto Rico at Mayaguez
Angel Ramirez	Senior	Electrical Engineering	Universidad Politecnica de Puerto Rico
Karina Quintana	Senior	Electrical Engineering	Florida International University
Maribel Torres-Velazquez	Senior	Electrical Engineering	University of Puerto Rico

#### NASA Langley Research Center

O'Lori Weston	Freshman	Biology	Hampton University
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#### Northrop Grumman Corporation Foundation

Francisco Garcia-Salas	Junior	Electrical Engineering	University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
Evan Hernandez	Sophomore	Computer Science	University of Wisconsin - Madison
Tunji Ogiefo	Junior	Computer/Electrical Engineering	Morgan State University

#### Oracle

Andrea Luna	Junior	Electrical Engineering	Crafton Hills College
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#### Rockwell Collins

Roya Edalatpour	Senior	Electrical Engineering	University of Texas at El Paso
Adrian Ramirez	Senior	Mechanical Engineering	University of Texas at El Paso
Erick Salazar	Senior	Mechanical Engineering	University of Texas at El Paso

#### The Boeing Company

Gabriela Bran	D. Candidate	Mechanical Engineering	University of California, Los Angeles
Diana Castro	Senior	Aerospace Engineering	California State University, Long Beach
Victor Esparza	Masters	Electrical Engineering	University of Southern California
Ivan Figueroa	Senior	Aerospace Engineering	California State University, Long Beach
Leslie Perez	Freshman	Mechanical Engineering	University of Southern California

#### The Chrysler Foundation

Ernesto Covarrubias	Senior	Mechanical Engineering	California State University, Los Angeles
Cynthia Garcia	Junior	Mechanical Engineering	El Paso Community College
Joseph Garcia	Senior	Mechanical Engineering	University of California, Irvine
Ana Guzman	Senior	Civil Engineering	University of Texas at El Paso
Patrick Hogan	Senior	Chemical Engineering	California State Polytechnic University, Pomona
Marcelo Murcia	Senior	Mechanical Engineering	California State Polytechnic University, Pomona
Alexsandra Olaya	Senior	Mechanical Engineering	Florida International University
Manuel Retana	Junior	Mechanical Engineering	University of Nevada, Reno

### The Gas Company

Evelyn Gutierrez	Senior	Mechanical Engineering	California State University, Northridge
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### SPECIAL RECOGNITION SCHOLARSHIPS

#### Associated Administrator of Los Angeles (AALA) Scholarship (Sponsored in part by GMiS)

Rosalia Hernandez	Freshman	Aerospace Engineering	University of California, Irvine
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#### National Football Hall of Fame – San Gabriel Valley/Pasadena Chapter Scholarship (Sponsored by GMiS)

Daniel Gardea	Freshman	Mechanical Engineering	California State University, Los Angeles
Brandon Lopez	Freshman	Biomedical Engineering	University of California, Irvine
David Tolmachoff	Freshman	Engineering	University of Notre Dame

#### Great Minds in STEM Community College Scholarship (Sponsored by GMiS)

Valeria Avila	Junior	Mechanical Engineering	Contra Costa College
Sandra Perez	Senior	Mechanical Engineering	Pasadena City College
Brenda Salazar	Sophomore	Biomedical Engineering	East Los Angeles College
Miguel Toledo	Junior	Chemical Engineering	Norco College

#### Shell Oil Company Scholarship (GMiS STEM Showdown™)

Haishat Alli	Junior	Engineering Physics	Tulane University
Mitchell Fullerton	Sophomore	Bioinnovation	Tulane University
Nicole Krawczewicz	Senior	Engineering Physics	Tulane University
Kaito Kuroda	Senior	Math & Computer Science	Tulane University
Ciara Simmons-Pino	Senior	Civil & Environmental Eng.	Rice University
Mickyle Stanbury	Junior	Chemical Engineering	Rice University

### IN MEMORIAM AND PERSONAL TRIBUTE SCHOLARSHIPS

#### Amezcuca Family Scholarship (Sponsored by Robert and Debbie Amezcuca)

Alejandro Hinojos	Senior	Metallurgical and Materials Eng.	University of Texas at El Paso
Aileen Tapia	Junior	Industrial Engineering	University of Texas at El Paso

#### Chevron - Ann Seki Memorial Scholarship (Sponsored by Chevron)

Mark Alvarez	Junior	Mechanical Engineering	California State University, Los Angeles
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Alessandro Archila	Sophomore	Petroleum Engineering	University of Oklahoma
Max Hassell	Sophomore	Chemical Engineering	Rice University
Hector Hernandez	Sophomore	Petroleum Engineering	University of Oklahoma
Fernando Jacinto	Junior	Mechanical Engineering	California State University, Long Beach
Makayla Santillan	Junior	Chemical Engineering	Texas A&M University – Kingsville
Guillermo Villalobos	Junior	Mechanical Engineering	Texas A&M University

**Davila-Treviño Memorial Scholarship**  
*(Sponsored by the David Davila and Joe Treviño Families)*

Emmanuel Culebro	Junior	Electrical Engineering	University of Texas Rio Grande Valley
Elia Garcia	Senior	Biology	University of Houston
Rebekah Kawas	Junior	Biology	Texas A&M International University
Jasmine Lucero	Senior	Industrial Engineering	University of Texas at Arlington
Raul Membreno	Junior	Biology	University of Texas at San Antonio
Elizabeth Moreno	Junior	Industrial Engineering	Texas Tech University
Mario Orrantia	Senior	Mechanical Engineering	University of Texas at El Paso
Juan Perez	Senior	Mechanical Engineering	University of Texas Rio Grande Valley
Federico Salinas	Senior	Mechanical Engineering	University of Texas at Austin
Kevin Schnittker	Senior	Metallurgical & Materials Eng	University of Texas at El Paso

**Henry W. Brady Memorial Scholarship**  
*(Sponsored by RADM Patrick Brady (Retired))*

Alberto Luna	Senior	Electrical Engineering	University of Southern California
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**Leticia S. Montiel Memorial Scholarship**  
*(Sponsored by Rudolf C. Montiel)*

Sofia Martin	Senior	Civil Engineering	University of Texas at El Paso
Paloma Zamarripa	Senior	Civil Engineering	University of Texas at El Paso

**Lopez-Piñeda Family Scholarship**  
*(Sponsored by Bayron Lopez)*

Sandra Hernandez-Andrade	Junior	Industrial Technology	California State University, Los Angeles
Francisco Moxo-Galicia	Junior	Mechanical Engineering	California State University, Los Angeles

**Ray and Carmela Mellado Family Scholarship**  
*(Sponsored by Ray and Carmela Mellado)*

Maribel Jaquez	Doctoral	Mechanical Engineering	University of California, Berkeley
Garrett Ott	Junior	Physics	Washington University in St Louis

**Raytheon - Jose R. Silva Memorial Scholarship**  
*(Sponsored by Raytheon)*

Lucero Buendia	Junior	Mechanical Engineering	University of Texas at El Paso
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Victoria Alegria Tracy Memorial Scholarship  
(Sponsored by Dr. and Mrs. John Tracy)

Liliana Montes De Oca	Junior	Mechanical Engineering	California State University, Los Angeles
Samantha Sotez	Senior	Mechanical Engineering	California State University, Los Angeles

Villarreal Family Scholarship  
(Sponsored by Raul Villarreal)

Alberto Beltran	Junior	Mechanical Engineering	Purdue University
Mirtha Echeverria	Junior	Mechanical Engineering	Miami Dade College

**About Great Minds in STEM™**

Great Minds in STEM™ is an education, national 501(c)3 nonprofit, whose vision is to be a national leader in keeping America technologically strong by promoting science, technology, engineering and math careers especially in underserved communities. Now, in its 27<sup>th</sup> year, it remains the only national entity, which has consistently recognized the esteemed technical achievements of STEM role models through a selective, peer-reviewed process. For more information on GMiS, please contact Monica Villafana, Director of Professional Programs, at (323) 262-0997 and visit the Great Minds in STEM™ website at [www.greatmindsinstem.org](http://www.greatmindsinstem.org).

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