

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Great Minds in STEM™ Elects Enrique J. Lavernia, Ph.D. into the HENAAC Hall of Fame

Monterey Park, CA, September 21, 2015 – 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 Enrique J. Lavernia, Ph.D. into the HENAAC Hall of Fame. Dr. Lavernia will be formally inducted at the 27th Annual HENAAC STEM Career Conference, during the Awards Show on Friday, October 16, 2015 at the Pasadena Civic Auditorium 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 Dr. Lavernia, the Hall of Fame is now comprised of 36 distinguished members.

Dr. Lavernia, a trailblazer who paved the way for important discoveries and research, is currently provost and executive vice chancellor of the University of California, Irvine - a position he has held since July 2015. In this new role, Dr. Lavernia will be the university's chief academic and operating officer, responsible for teaching's and research enterprise. Prior to his arrival at UC Irvine, he served as dean of the University of California, Davis College of Engineering. During his tenure as dean of the UC Davis College of Engineering, it evolved into one of the nation's fastest-growing and most prestigious engineering schools. Dr. Lavernia and eight members of the faculty, became members of the National Academies. Research expenditures doubled, 88 professors were hired and student enrollment increased by 22 percent, with substantial increases in female and Hispanic undergraduates. Along with a list of voluminous publications, Dr. Lavernia has worked hard to ensure the continued growth and prestige of the UC Davis College of Engineering.

Dr. Lavernia earned 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.

For more information on the 27th Annual HENAAC STEM Career Conference or the Great Minds in STEM™ organization please visit 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