

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Great Minds in STEM Announces 2015 HENAAC Award Winners

Monterey Park, CA – August 7, 2015 - Great Minds in STEM™ is proud to announce the 2015 Class of HENAAC Award Winners. These phenomenal role models in science, technology, engineering and math will be honored at the 27th HENAAC STEM Career Conference, "Ignite, Inspire" in Pasadena, CA, October 14-18, 2015.

Great Minds in STEM™ salutes its 27th class of HENAAC honorees and thanks the men and women from industry, government, military and academic institutions who participated in the various selection committees to review nominations. The peer review selection committee was co-chaired by Dr. Yannis C. Yortsos, Dean of the University of Southern California's Viterbi School of Engineering and Dr. Emily L. Allen, Dean of California State University Los Angeles' College of Engineering, Computer Science, and Technology. Both institutions, along with the California State University System, are the Academic Hosts of the 27th HENAAC STEM Career Conference.

Engineer of the Year

Karen Lozano, Ph.D.
Julia Beecherl Endowed Professor
Founder/Director of
Nanotechnology Center of Excellence
University of Texas Rio Grande Valley*
&
Chief Technology Officer
FibeRio Technology Corporation

Scientist of the Year

Elisa V. Quintana, Ph.D.
NASA Senior Fellow,
Physicist & Planetary Scientist
NASA Ames Research Center

Executive Excellence

Government

Jeff Morales
Chief Executive Officer
California High Speed Rail Authority

Industry

Nestor Martinez
Vice President
Engineering and Technical Services
Transmission and Distribution
Southern California Edison

Outstanding Technical Achievement

Abraham Ellis, Ph.D.
Manager
Photovoltaic and Distributed Systems
Department
Sandia National Laboratories

Pioneer

Van Rex Gallard
Vice President - Sales
Latin America, Africa & Caribbean
Boeing Commercial Airplanes
The Boeing Company

Chairman's Award

John Brooks Slaughter, Ph.D., P.E.
Professor of Education and Engineering
Rossier School of Education
Viterbi School of Engineering
Dornsife College of Letters, Arts and Sciences
University of Southern California

Lifetime Achievement

Patrick A. Sena
Research and Development Senior Engineer
Stockpile Systems Center
Sandia National Laboratories

Professional Achievement II

Ester Baiget
EMEA Commercial Director
Dow Elastomers, Electrical &
Telecommunications
The Dow Chemical Company

Paul N. Cejas
Chief Engineer
QF-16 Full Scale Aerial Target
Boeing Defense, Space & Security
The Boeing Company

Professional Achievement I

Jason Brooks
Principal Systems Engineer
F-35 Design and Development
IPT Lead/Engineering Program Manager
Lockheed Martin Corporation

Maria M. Diaz-Masterson
Branch Head
Submarine and Surveillance
Systems Test and Evaluation
Naval Undersea Warfare Center Division,
Newport
U.S. Navy

Civil Engineering

Norberto C. Nadal-Caraballo, Ph.D.
Research Civil Engineer (Hydraulics)
Harbors, Entrances, and Structures Branch
Navigation Division
Coastal and Hydraulics Laboratory
U.S. Army Engineer Research and
Development Center

Information Technology

Joel A. Johnson
Senior Manager
Lockheed Martin Computer
Incident Response Team
Lockheed Martin Corporation

Education

Ann Quiroz-Gates, Ph.D.
Professor and Chair
Computer Science
University of Texas at El Paso

Armando M. Rivera-Figueroa, Ph.D.
Associate Professor of Chemistry &
STEM Projects Director
East Los Angeles College

Diversity

Alma Guajardo-Crossley
Corporate Director
Diversity Initiatives
General Motors

Community Service

Connie P. Medina-Garcia
Parts Manager/Cost Account Manager
Space and Airborne Systems
Raytheon Company

Most Promising Engineer or Scientist Advanced Degree – Ph.D.

Industry

Marvi A. Matos, Ph.D.
Director
Chemical Technologies, Metals and Ceramics
Boeing Research and Technology
The Boeing Company

Education

Rafael Verduzco, Ph.D.
Louis Owen Assistant Professor
Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering and
Materials Science and NanoEngineering
Rice University

Most Promising Engineer or Scientist Advanced Degree – Master's

Industry

Miguel Angel Cabrera
Project Team Lead &
Senior Reservoir Engineer
Shell Oil Company

Industry

Michael G. Diaz
Hybrid Controls Algorithm
Design and Development Engineer
General Motors

Government

Shannon Rodriguez-Sanabria
Branch Head
Microwave and Telecommunications
Systems Branch
NASA Goddard Space Flight Center

Military

Captain Daniel J. Uribe
Program Manager
Center for Rapid Innovation
Air Force Research Laboratory
U.S. Air Force

**Most Promising Engineer or Scientist
Undergraduate Degree – Bachelor's**

Victor H. Aguilar-Ruiz
Systems Engineer III
Northrop Grumman Corporation

*As of 9/1/15 the University of Texas Pan American will merge with the University of Texas Brownville to form the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley.

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.