

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Great Minds in STEM™ and Northrop Grumman Foundation Partner for Third Consecutive Viva Technology™ Program at South Gate Middle School

Monterey Park, CA, May 31, 2016 – For the third consecutive year, Great Minds in STEM™ (GMiS) partnered with the Northrop Grumman Foundation to conduct a three-part Viva Technology™ program at South Gate Middle School in Los Angeles County, on May 19 and 20, 2016.

As part of GMiS' national K-12 education programs, Viva Technology™ aims to engage students, teachers and parents with STEM challenges that foster awareness, build skills in the applications of science and technology and provide a STEM education and career pathway. Both a teacher and parent orientation were held on Thursday, May 19. During the teacher portion, educators were provided with information and materials that acquaint them with the program and affords them educational resources so they can continue to encourage their students to pursue STEM degrees and careers. Northrop Grumman's Diana Tanious, Electrical Engineering Manager, was on-hand to speak with educators. Over 100 parents attended the parent orientation, which welcomed guest speaker and 2014 HENAAC Award Winner, Silvia Osuna, Quality Engineering Manager also of Northrop Grumman. The parent component offered information to help parents encourage their children to excel in math and science and envision themselves as future engineers and scientists.

On Friday, May 20, 120 middle school students experienced a full day of STEM project-based exercises that challenged their understanding of the Engineering and Science Design Process. Teams of middle school students worked with local STEM college students who served as *College Captains*, as part of our civic service leader program, on various challenges posed to them throughout the day. 2012 HENAAC Scholar and current Northrop Grumman Systems Engineer, Reina Villanueva, served as a guest speaker and shared with students her educational journey, life experiences and professional work as an engineer.

Northrop Grumman's Materials and Process Engineer, Dian Fernandez expressed her excitement for the program, sharing, "Northrop Grumman was thrilled to partake in the Viva Technology event at South Gate Middle School this year! The day was truly rewarding as we were able to be a part of an activity that will inspire more students to follow and select STEM careers!"

About Great Minds in STEM™

Great Minds in STEM™ is a national 501(c)3 nonprofit organization based in Los Angeles County with a 28-year history of keeping America technologically strong through the delivery of national STEM awareness programs especially to underserved communities. Through the GMiS network, academic, career development and mentoring opportunities are offered to students who are underrepresented in STEM fields. The organization is focused on working to build a diverse 21st Century STEM workforce in which all citizens contribute to innovation and experience prosperity.