

# Press Release

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Lupe Munoz- Alvarado  
K-12 Education Programs  
(323) 262-0997 Ext. 208  
lmalvarado@greatmindsinstem.org



Great Minds in STEM and Shell Oil Company Present the 2017 STEM Showdown  
*Texas Strong! High school and university students unite for a competition of the minds in Houston, Texas*

**Monterey Park, CA** – Great Minds in STEM™ (GMiS) is proud to return to Houston, Texas with Shell Oil Company for the **2017 STEM Showdown™**, a nationally recognized K-12 education program. Now in its fourth year, the 2017 edition of the STEM Showdown will take place at the University of Houston in Houston, Texas on Friday, September 29, 2017.

The STEM Showdown is the product of a dynamic partnership between Great Minds in STEM and Shell Oil Company. In this highly competitive and exciting event, underserved high school and university students compete in an intensive series of STEM challenges. Teams comprised of both high school and college students will participate in active learning exercises designed to foster awareness and build skills fundamental to the application of technology. Students leave the program understanding the correlation between their math and science studies and future STEM careers – skills they will carry with them into college and beyond.

The STEM Showdown™ draws over 100 high school students hailing from the IPAA/PESA Petroleum Academies in Houston ISD and Fort Worth ISD and their respective schools: Energy Institute High School, Charles H. Milby High School, Young Women's College Preparatory Academy, Southwest High School and Westside High School. These students will team up with their corresponding college counterparts from University of Houston, Rice University, University of St. Thomas, and Texas Southern University in an effort to win the coveted top prizes: \$3,500 for the first place team, and \$1,500 for the runners-up.

In addition to the competition, participants will have the opportunity to interact with scientists, engineers and other technical professionals from Shell Oil Company first-hand, and hear from career awareness speaker Ms. Iris Diaz, Cost Engineer with Shell International Exploration and Production. Parents and teachers will also have the opportunity to participate in workshops held in collaboration with the Shell Oil Company and local university partners regarding college access, financial aid, and current issues pertaining to STEM education.

## About Great Minds in STEM

Great Minds in STEM™ is a national 501(c)3 nonprofit organization based in Los Angeles County with a 29-year history of keeping America technologically strong through the delivery of national STEM awareness programs for students, parents and teachers in 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.

## About Shell Oil Company

Shell is a leading oil and gas producer in the deepwater Gulf of Mexico, a recognized pioneer in oil and gas exploration and production technology, and one of America's leading oil and natural gas producers, gasoline and natural gas marketers, and petrochemical manufacturers.

