

# Press Release

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Great Minds in STEM Partners with the Department of Defense and Morgan State University for Viva Technology Student Day Program

**Baltimore, MD** – Great Minds in STEM™ is proud to partner with the Department of Defense STEM Education Programs mission (DoD STEM) to deliver the Viva Technology Program at Thomas Jefferson Elementary and Middle School (TJEMS) in Baltimore, Maryland on Friday, April 20th, 2018.

100 middle school students from TJEMS will spend the day on the campus of Morgan State University, where 25 of the college's students from the School of Engineering and the School of Computer, Mathematical and Natural Sciences will lead them through a series of hands-on STEM activities and competitions.

Students will gather in the Hurt Gymnasium to hear from two prominent deans from Morgan State University: Dr. Patricia Welch, Dean of School of Education and Urban Studies; and Dr. Hongtao Yu, Dean of Computer, Mathematical and Natural Sciences. Mr. Charles Matthews, a retired science educator and STEM Specialist, will deliver the keynote address and engage the students with an interactive activity.

#### *About DoD STEM:*

DoD STEM represents the Department of Defense's mission to attract, inspire, and develop exceptional STEM talent across the educational continuum to sustain the Department's technological edge. DoD STEM provides learning opportunities from elementary school through graduate school to inspire and cultivate a diverse pool of exceptional STEM talent. Under the Federal STEM strategic plan, the Department is charged with helping meet national goals of: improving instruction; increasing engagement; growing the pool of STEM degree holders; broadening the participation of historically underserved groups; and improving the graduate school experience.

DoD is the largest employer of scientists and engineers in the nation. DoD's elite scientists and engineers have been at the cutting edge of our nation's most advanced technological breakthroughs for decades. The legacy of defense innovation includes the Internet, the Global Positioning System (GPS), virtual reality, voice recognition technology, autonomous vehicles, and cloud computing. You can learn more about DoD STEM at:

[www.dodstem.us](http://www.dodstem.us)

#### *About Great Minds in STEM and the Viva Technology Program*

Great Minds in STEM™ is a 501(c)3 a non-profit organization dedicated to keeping America technologically strong by promoting Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) careers, especially in underserved communities. Established in 1989 and based in the Los Angeles area, the organization's nation-wide programming focuses on STEM educational awareness from kindergarten through college, and on seeking-out and documenting the world-class contributions of Hispanic professionals in STEM to serve as role models for the next generation of American engineers and scientists.

GMiS created the Viva Technology™ Program in 2001 to engage students, teachers and parents with STEM challenges and activities that stimulate interest in the application of technology and provide STEM-focused career pathways. Viva Technology has been implemented in 18 states & the District of Columbia, and reached over 136,000 students, teachers & parents through its various program options. You can learn more at:

[www.greatmindsinstem.org](http://www.greatmindsinstem.org).

