FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Great Minds in STEM Announces 2019 Military & Civilian Honorees

Montebello, CA – Great Minds in STEM is honored to announce the 2019 award winners from our nation’s military. For over three decades, Great Minds in STEM has showcased our nation’s most talented Hispanic STEM professionals within the many agencies, research laboratories and technical commands that fall under the direction of the Department of Defense and the Department of Homeland Security.

Twelve STEM Hero Award recipients have been selected this year, and they’ll join three HENAAC Award winners from the military in the Class of 2019 GMiS honorees. Great Minds in STEM is proud to once again profile and honor civilian and uniformed military personnel in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) fields. All award winners will be honored at the 31st Annual GMiS Conference taking place September 25-28, 2019 at Disney’s Coronado Springs Resort in Lake Buena Vista Florida. Congratulations to all of this year’s honorees!

2019 HENAAC Military & Civilian Honorees

Elvis Acosta
Performance Assessment Department Head
Naval Surface Warfare Center, Corona Division, NAVSEA
U.S. Navy

Capt. Jorge E. Diaz
Lead GPS Aviation Systems Engineer, Space and Missile Systems Center, Los Angeles
U.S. Air Force Space and Missile Systems Center
U.S. Air Force

Capt. Lisa Fernandez, Ph.D.
Research Entomologist
Applied Technology and Genomics Division
U.S. Air Force - School of Aerospace Medicine
U.S. Air Force

Paul J. Fontanez, Ph.D.
Strategic Mission Area Lead - Core Engineering Director for Engineering Systems Engineering Test Requirements
Missile Defense Agency

Lt. Luis F. Garcia
Civil Engineering Instructor
U.S. Coast Guard Academy
U.S. Coast Guard

LCDR. David S. Gonzalez
C5I & Ordnance Supervisory Project Manager
U.S. Coast Guard Yard
U.S. Coast Guard
Press Release
August 2, 2019

Edith Martinez-Guerra, Ph.D.
Research Environmental Engineer, Engineer Research and Development Center
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
U.S. Army

Alvaro C. Matos
Director
Corporate Integration Group
Defense Contract Management Agency

Ramon A. Morales
Branch Head
Naval Surface Warfare Center, Philadelphia Division, NAVSEA
U.S. Navy

Javier Rodriguez
Plan and Programs Engineer
Plans and Programs Branch
Integration and Operations Division, Materials and Manufacturing Directorate, Air Force Research Laboratory
U.S. Air Force

Jose Romero-Mariona, Ph.D.
Lead Research Scientist for Cybersecurity Innovation and Cyber Science & Branch Head
Naval Information Warfare Center Pacific and NAVWAR
U.S. Navy

Wilmel Varela-Ortiz, P.E.
Resident Engineer, North Puerto Rico Resident Office
Construction Division
Jacksonville District
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
U.S. Army

2019 HENAAC Award Winners from the Military

Outstanding Technical Achievement
Henry Diaz-Álvarez
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
U.S. Army

Professional Achievement Level I
CDR. Angelina Hidalgo
U.S. Coast Guard

Most Promising Engineer-Bachelor’s
Capt. Jan K. Huertas
U.S. Air Force
Great Minds in STEM™ is a 501(c)3 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.

Great Minds in STEM’s annual Conference is the organization’s flagship event where all elements of outreach and programming come together to celebrate excellence in STEM. The conference features executive forums, seminars, competitive programs, career opportunities and networking sessions and is attended by over 3,000 STEM students and professionals annually.

Great Minds in STEM is once again partnering with CAHSI (the Computing Alliance of Hispanic Serving Institutions), and will feature CHCI (the Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute) in 2019. These organizations have chosen the GMiS Conference as the venue for annual meetings and events.

For more information about Great Minds in STEM and the 2019 GMiS Conference, please visit us online at:

www.greatmindsinstem.org

“A Bridge to Tomorrow”
September 25-28, 2019
Disney’s Coronado Springs Resort
Lake Buena Vista, FL

2019 Academic Hosts

UCF
FIU
FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY