

August 2, 2019

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Great Minds in STEM Announces 2019 HENAAC Award Winners

Montebello, CA – Great Minds in STEM™ is proud to announce the HENAAC Awards Class of 2019! This year, the Selection Committee has chosen 26 outstanding scientists, engineers, educators and STEM professionals to join the 30-year legacy of HENAAC Award Winners. The peer-review Selection Committee, chaired this year by Dr. Michael Georgiopoulos, Dean of the College of Engineering and Computer Science at the University of Central Florida, evaluated hundreds of nominations from industry, the military, government, and academia across 12 categories.

The Class of 2019 will be honored at the 31st Annual Great Minds in STEM 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.

Engineer of the Year

Gregory A. Porpora, CISSP
Distinguished Engineer
Advanced Analytics,
Cybersecurity & Intelligence
IBM

Scientist of the Year

Estrella Rogel, Ph.D.
Consulting Scientist
Downstream Technology
& Service Department
Chevron Energy Technology Co.

Chairman's Award

Marillyn A. Hewson
Chairman, President and
Chief Executive Officer
Lockheed Martin Corporation

Executive Excellence

Alejandro Muñoz
President
Latin America Commercial
Corteva Agriscience

Lifetime Achievement

Cesar Ovalles, Ph.D.
Team Lead, Heavy Oil
Characterization Team
Downstream Technology
& Service Department
Chevron Energy Technology Co.

Lifetime Achievement

Robert A. Villareal
Chief
Project Management Branch
NASA Johnson Space Center

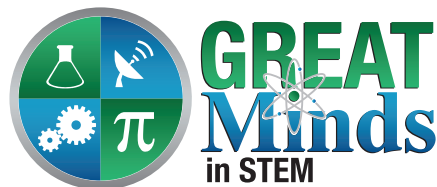
Outstanding Technical Achievement

Pedro A. Capó-Lugo, Ph.D.
Senior Systems Engineer II
Raytheon Missile Systems
Raytheon Company

Outstanding Technical Achievement

Henry Diaz-Álvarez
Research Civil Engineer, Structural
Engineering Branch, Geotechnical
& Structures Laboratory, Engineer
Research & Development Center
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
U.S. Army

August 2, 2019



Outstanding Technical Achievement

Karien J. Rodríguez, Ph.D.
Research Technical Leader
Life Science, Global Research
and Engineering
Kimberly-Clark Corporation

Outstanding Technical Achievement

Carlos M. Villa, Ph.D.
Principal Research Scientist
Reaction Engineering Group
Dow

Professional Achievement Level II

Gabriel J. Gomez
Analog and Mixed-Signal
Design Manager
Embedded Processor Division
Texas Instruments

Professional Achievement Level II

Sergio Jaramillo, Ph.D.
Metoccean Engineer
Shell Global Solutions US Inc.
Shell Oil Company

Professional Achievement Level I

CDR Angelina Hidalgo
Chief, Intelligence Department
Coast Guard Cyber Command
U.S. Coast Guard

Professional Achievement Level I

Juan A. Salgado, PMP
Manager, Systems Engineering
Integration & Test Department
NGMS Navigation & Maritime
Systems Division
Northrop Grumman Corporation

Most Promising Engineer - Ph.D.

Nicolas Argibay, Ph.D.
Principal Member of Technical
Staff
Material, Physical, and Chemical
Sciences Center
Sandia National Laboratories

Most Promising Scientist - Ph.D.

Brandon Macias
Senior Scientist, Lead
Cardiovascular and Vision
Laboratory
NASA Johnson Space Center

Most Promising Scientist - Master's

Alberto Bernaez
Perdido Development
Geophysicist
Shell Exploration and
Production Company
Shell Oil Company

Most Promising Engineer - Master's

Ali Guarneros-Luna
Manager
Electronics Discharge Program
NASA AMES Research Center

Most Promising Engineer - Master's

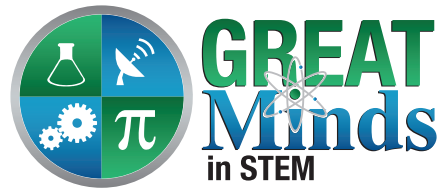
Oscar Ledezma
Controls Engineer
Disneyland Resort
Disney Parks, Experiences
and Products

Most Promising Engineer - Bachelor's

Capt. Jan K. Huertas
Global Positioning Systems
Block III Systems Engineering
Requirements Manager, GPS
Space Vehicles
Division, Los Angeles AFB, CA
U.S. Air Force

Press Release

August 2, 2019



Most Promising Engineer - Bachelor's

Sarah Reyes

Industrial Engineer, Acquisition
Readiness Department
Strategic Systems Assessment
Naval Surface Warfare Center,
Corona Division, NAVSEA
U.S. Navy

Santiago Rodriguez Diversity and Inclusion

Ian R. Kohen

Director
Corporate Responsibility
Cummins Engine and
Component Businesses
Cummins

Education

Giselle Sandi, Ph.D.

Director
Office of Rush Mentoring
Programs, Faculty Affairs
& Associate Professor of
Microbial Pathogens & Immunity
Rush University Medical Center

Education

**Natalia Villanueva
Rosales, Ph.D.**

Assistant Professor in Computer
Science and Co-PI,
CyberShare Center of Excellence
University of Texas at El Paso

Community Service

Ralph C. Segarra

Quality Analyst 5
Northrop Grumman Mission
Systems
Northrop Grumman Corporation

Community Service

Ernesto Covarrubias

BCA Propulsion Systems
Service Engineer, Engineering
Career Foundation Program
The Boeing Company

Great Minds in STEM would like to thank the 2019 Selection committee, especially the Committee Chair representing one of our two Academic Hosts:



Michael Georgiopoulos, Ph.D.

Dean
College of Engineering
and Computer Science
University of Central Florida



About the Organization

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.

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. They've all chosen the 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

