

March 12, 2020

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Statement by Great Minds in STEM's Chairman of the Board and CEO Regarding Covid-19's Impact on GMiS Programming

Montebello, CA – Great Minds in STEM has been closely monitoring the Covid-19 global pandemic and how it's impacting our sponsors, staff, student volunteers and other stakeholders across the country. We've also kept abreast of local, state and federal response measures to determine how they affect our ability to safely and effectively deliver programs during this very dynamic public health emergency.

After rigorous deliberations and a thorough review of restrictions on travel, public gatherings, and on-campus school activities issued by various government, academic and local agencies, **GMiS has decided to suspend and reschedule all upcoming K-12 and University programs currently scheduled for the month of March, 2020, through to the end of April, 2020.**

Specifically, this suspension affects:

- All Viva Technology activities at South Gate STEM and Southeast DREAMS Magnets in South Gate, CA
- Viva Technology Programs at:
 - Magruder High School, Rockville, MD
 - Nichols Junior High School, Arlington, TX
 - John A. Sutter Middle School, Winnetka, CA
 - Trimble Tech High School, Fort Worth, TX
- Department of Defense and U.S. Army HBCU/MI Design Competition @ University of Illinois at Chicago

GMiS is actively working with our sponsors and partner schools to reschedule these events for later in the year, and we will release more detailed statements on individual programs in the coming days. We will also continue to monitor the pandemic and, if prudent, extend programming suspension into the month of May.

Furthermore, the 32nd Annual GMiS Conference, scheduled to take place October 7-10, 2020, is NOT impacted by this suspension. Planning for the conference will proceed, and we are prepared to modify scholarship application, award nomination and other upcoming submission deadlines to deal with this evolving public health crisis.

We appreciate your patience and understanding as we work through this evolving situation and, like all organizations, strive to determine the best way to serve our stakeholders, protect our employees, and support local, state-wide and national efforts to contain the spread of the Covid-19 virus.

Sincerely,

Juan Rivera, Ph.D.
Chairman of the Board, Great Minds in STEM

Anna M. Park
CEO, Great Minds in STEM