FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Great Minds in STEM Announces 2020 HENAAC Award Winners

Montebello, CA – GMiS is proud to announce the HENAAC Award Winners for 2020! Over 60 companies, government agencies, academic institutions and our Nation’s uniformed services collectively nominated hundreds of outstanding candidates. This left Selection Committee Chair Dr. Michael Georgiopoulos, Dean of the College of Engineering and Computer Science at the University of Central Florida, and the over 75 STEM professionals who participated in the peer-review selection process, with a difficult task to select the best of the best for this year’s class of HENAAC honorees.

2020 has been filled with many unknowns due to the COVID-19 pandemic impacting all areas of our lives, and employers and organizations large and small could have been forgiven for de-prioritizing recognition efforts. But that didn't happen. This year’s nominating class is one of the largest and most robust in recent memory – a testament to our stakeholders’ commitment to GMiS and to diversity and inclusion.

All honorees will be recognized during the virtual 32nd Annual GMiS Conference, “Every Challenge, Every Frontier,” October 5 - 9, 2020. Stay connected to GMiS social media for information about the programs and platforms that will feature our honorees, and to learn more about their professional experiences, their life journeys, and the importance of community engagement.

Engineer of the Year
Jesse A. Ortega
Architectural Chief Engineer
General Motors

Scientist of the Year
Alfonso Fernandez Davila, Ph.D.
Research Scientist, Exobiology Branch
NASA Ames Research Center

Albert V. Baez Award
Capt. Mercedes Benitez-McCrary
Chief, Professional Officer - Chief, Therapy Officer
U.S. Public Health Service

Chairman's Award
Fred Whipple
Vice President, Employee Relations/Diversity and Inclusion of Human Resources
Shell Oil Company

Executive Excellence - Industry
Eliezer Maldonado
Senior Global Business Director
Functional Polymers
Packaging and Specialty Plastics
Dow, Inc.

Executive Excellence - Military
John D. Moreno
Regional Business Director
South Pacific Division
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Press Release
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Santiago Rodriguez
Diversity and Inclusion Award
Armando L. Castorena, SPHR, CCP
Vice President of Human Resources
Lockheed Martin Space
Lockheed Martin Corporation

Outstanding Technical Achievement - National Laboratory
Hector J. Santos-Villalobos, Ph.D.
Group Leader, Biometrics and Identity Research Group
Cyber and Applied Data Analytics Division of the National Security Sciences Directorate
Oak Ridge National Laboratory

Outstanding Technical Achievement - Industry
Luis A. Verde Chiffflet, Ph.D.
Research Director, Latin American R&D
Commercial Zone Lead Corteva Agriscience

Professional Achievement Level II - Industry
Marco Gardner
Analog Signal Chain / Linear Amplifiers / Precision Amplifiers Product Line Manager
Texas Instruments

Professional Achievement Level II - Military
Miguel Rivera
Director, Integrated Air and Missile Defense Technical Authority
Missile Defense Agency

Professional Achievement Level I - Military
Alicia I. Ruvinsky
Research Computer Science
U.S. Army Engineer Research and Development Center
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Professional Achievement Level I - Industry
Luis A. Verde Chiffflet, Ph.D.
Research Director, Latin American R&D
Commercial Zone Lead Corteva Agriscience

Outstanding Technical Achievement - Industry
Marco Gardner
Analog Signal Chain / Linear Amplifiers / Precision Amplifiers Product Line Manager
Texas Instruments

Pioneer Award
Susana F. Lizcano Gonzalez, Ph.D.
Director
Shipment Quality Field Opertaions
Union Pacific

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Education Distinction

Jorge A. Lopez, Ph.D.
Schumaker Professor of Physics
Department of Physics
The University of Texas at El Paso

Entrepreneur

Stephanie N. Murphy
Principal Owner &
Executive Chairman
MEI Technologies, Inc.

Most Promising Engineer, Ph.D. - Government

Margaret Z. Dominguez, Ph.D.
Optical Engineer
NASA - Goddard Space Center

Most Promising Engineer, Ph.D. - Industry

Maribel Jaquez, Ph.D.
Principal Engineer
Microelectronics Semiconductor
Northrop Grumman

Most Promising Engineer, Ph.D. - Military

Carlos M. Torres, Jr., Ph.D.
Researcher/Electronics Engineer,
Enterprise Communications and Networks Division
Naval Information Warfare Center Pacific
U.S. Navy

Lifetime Achievement – National Laboratory

Evaristo Bonano, Ph.D.
Senior Manager
Nuclear Engineering Fuel Cycle,
Org 8840
Sandia National Laboratories

Lifetime Achievement – Industry

Priscila Vansetti
Director, Global Strategy and Business Development
Corteva Agriscience

Community Service

Gilberto Morales, Ph.D.
Staff Engineer, Ph.D.
Bell Textron, Inc.

Lifetime Achievement – National Laboratory

Priscila Vansetti
Director, Global Strategy and Business Development
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Most Promising Engineer, Ph.D. - Education
Eduardo Rojas Nastrucci, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor of Electrical Engineering, ECSSE Department
Embry Riddle Aeronautical University

Most Promising Engineer, Master's Degree - Industry
Andrea Hidalgo
Calibration Specialist
General Motors

Most Promising Engineer, Master's Degree - Military
1Lt Flavio F. Marroquin
Chief, Wing Training
67th Operations Support Squadron (ACC)
U.S. Air Force

Most Promising Engineer, Undergraduate
Carmen M. Mercado
Mechanical Engineer II,
Antenna Systems Department
Raytheon Missiles & Defense
Raytheon Technologies

Most Promising Engineer, Undergraduate
Juan D. Quintero
Project Manager
El Segundo Refinery
Chevron Products Company
Chevron

Great Minds in STEM would like to thank the 2020 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) in 2020, which has chosen the GMiS Conference as the venue for their annual CAHSI Summit and Hackathon.

For more information about Great Minds in STEM and the 2020 GMiS Conference, please visit us online at:

www.greatmindsinstem.org  www.gmisconference.org

“Every Challenge, Every Frontier!”
October 5-9, 2020
100% Virtual!
www.gmisconference.org

2020 Academic Hosts and Partner Organizations