

Press Release

August 26, 2020

Patsy Delgado
Executive Services Specialist
pdelgado@greatmindsinstem.org
www.greatmindsinstem.org



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
(March 2016 - March 2020)
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.

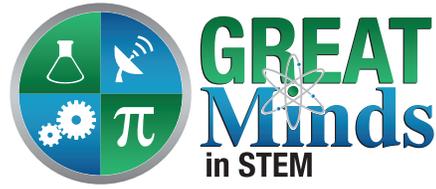


Executive Excellence - Military

John D. Moreno
Regional Business Director
South Pacific Division
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

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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 Chifflet, 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 - Industry

Melanie L. Weber
Structural and Mechanical Design Engineer, CST-100 Starliner–Subsystem Lead for Crew and Cargo Accommodations, Boeing Defense Systems–Space & Launch
The Boeing Company



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



Pioneer Award

Susana F. Lizcano Gonzalez, Ph.D.
Director
Shipment Quality Field Operations
Union Pacific

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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



Education Distinction

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



Community Service

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



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

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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

