Great Minds in STEM Announces 2020 Uniformed Services Honorees

Montebello, CA – Great Minds in STEM is honored to announce this year’s award winners from our Nation’s uniformed services and agencies reporting to the U.S. Department of Defense. For 32 years, GMiS has showcased world-class excellence at the many agencies, research laboratories and technical commands that fall under the direction of DoD as well as the Department of Homeland Security and the Department of Health and Human Services. This year, 16 outstanding STEM professionals from the uniformed services join the Class of 2020!

This year’s nominating class was one of the largest and most competitive in recent memory, a fact all the more remarkable considering the extensive and often tragic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. Public and private sector entities alike demonstrated their commitment to diversity and inclusion and embodied the theme of the 2020 GMiS conference: “Every Challenge, Every Frontier.”

Honorees from the uniformed services will be recognized at the National Defense Awards during the virtual 32nd Annual GMiS Conference, October 5 - 9, 2020. Stay connected to GMiS social media to learn more about their professional experiences, their life journeys, and the importance of community engagement.

2020 HENAAC Award Winners from the Uniformed Services

Albert V. Baez Award
Capt Mercedes Benitez-McCrary
Chief, Professional Officer - Chief, Therapy Officer (March 2016 - March 2020)
U.S. Public Health Service

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

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

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

Most Promising Engineer, Master’s Degree - Military
1Lt Flavio F. Marroquin
Chief, Wing Training
67th Operations Support Squadron (ACC)
U.S. Air Force
2020 STEM Hero Honorees

**Carolina Burnette**
Civil Engineer  
Jacksonville District  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

**TSgt Armando Cabrera**
Artificial Intelligence Accelerator Flight Chief  
Air Force/MIT Artificial Intelligence Accelerator  
U.S. Air Force

**Natasha A. Chang, Ph.D.**
Hydroacoustics and Data Analytics Engineer, Acoustic Signatures Technology Division  
Signatures Department, Puget Sound Detachment  
Naval Surface Warfare Center, Carderock Division  
U.S. Navy

**Jennifer Lopez, Ph.D.**
Research Mathematician & Team Lead, Sensors Directorate  
Multi-Domain Sensing Autonomy Division, Sensing Management Branch, U.S. Air Force Research Laboratory  
U.S. Air Force

**Christine Lozano**
Research Civil Engineer  
U.S. Army Engineer Research and Development Center  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

**Jose M. Miranda, SES**
Director, Technology Security and Technology Programs Directorate, Navy International Programs Office  
NAVSEA  
U.S. Navy
2020 STEM Hero Honorees (continued)

SPC Dwight D. Monk
Battalion Executive Assistant
Special Troops Battalion
3rd Infantry Division
Sustainment Brigade
U.S. Army

1Lt Eric M. Pratts
Officer In Charge of
Advanced Programs
Detachment 2, 318 Cyberspace
Operations Group
Nellis Air Force Base
U.S. Air Force

Luis A. Rodriguez
Project Lead, Prototype Integration Facility
Aviation and Missile Center
Combat Capabilities Development Command
U.S. Army Futures Command

SFC James D. Webb
Headquarters
10th Mountain Division
(Light Infantry) and Fort Drum
U.S. Army

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