

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Great Minds in STEM Announces 2014 HENAAC Award Winners

Monterey Park, CA – August 5, 2014 - Great Minds in STEM is proud to announce the HENAAC Award Winners for 2014. These outstanding role models in science, technology, engineering and mathematics, will be recognized at the 26th Annual HENAAC Conference, "The Quest for Competitive Greatness" in New Orleans, LA, October 2-4, 2014.

For twenty-six years, Great Minds in STEM has honored the best and brightest STEM minds in America. The Class of 2014 is no exception. Each award winner is peer-reviewed and selected by a committee of representatives from industry, government, military and academic institutions. The committee was co-chaired by Janet Ruscher, Ph.D., Associate Dean for Graduate Programs, School of Science and Engineering at Tulane University; as well as Steve Johnson, Ph.D., Dean of the College of Sciences and Kim D. Jovanovich, M.S., P.E., Assistant Dean of Engineering both from the University of New Orleans. Tulane University and the University of New Orleans are the Academic Hosts of the 26th Annual HENAAC Conference.

The HENAAC Award Winners will be honored at one of two recognition events of the HENAAC Awards Show and the HENAAC Awards Luncheon. Both of these events will take place during the Conference, which will be held at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in New Orleans, Louisiana.

Engineer of the Year

Grace Lieblein
Vice President
Global Purchasing and Supply Chain
General Motors

Scientist of the Year

Sergio Torres, Ph.D.
Lockheed Martin Fellow
Lockheed Martin Corporation

Executive Excellence

Mauro Gregorio
Business President
Feedstocks & Energy
The Dow Chemical Company

RADM Ronald J. Rabago
Assistant Commandant
Engineering & Logistics
Chief Engineer
U.S. Coast Guard

Outstanding Technical Achievement

Cesar Ovalles, Ph.D.
Technical Team Leader
Chevron Corporation

Juan Carlos Idrobo, Ph.D.
R&D Staff
Center for Nanophase Materials Sciences
Oak Ridge National Laboratory

Lifetime Achievement

Robert C. Trevino, P.E.
Aerospace Technologist
NASA Johnson Space Center

Hector Hernandez
Armament Chief Engineer
Air Force Life Cycle Management Center
U.S. Air Force

Pioneer Award

Gloria L. Valdez
Executive Director
Program Executive Office, Submarines
NAVSEA
U.S. Navy

Chairman's Award

Armando Arismendi
Director
Special Government Projects
IBM

Professional Achievement II

Amri I. Hernández-Pellerano
Staff Engineer
Power Systems Branch
NASA Goddard Space Flight Center

Carlos E. Ruiz, Ph.D.
Research Civil Engineer
Water Quality and Containment Transport
Branch, Environmental Processes and
Engineering Division
Engineer Research and Development Center
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Professional Achievement I

Stephanie M. Martin, Ph.D.
Technical Leader 1
PYYF Innovation Pilot Team
Kimberly-Clark Corporation

Rui Vogt Alves Da Cruz, Ph.D.
R&D Director
Oil & Gas Exploration and Production
The Dow Chemical Company

Information Technology*

Ruben Herrera
O&M Development Lead
Lockheed Martin Corporation

Juan Carlos Gutierrez
Group Vice President
Oracle Corporation

Community Service*

Jesus Perez
Senior Principal Mechanical Engineer
Thermal Design and Analysis
Space & Airborne Systems
Raytheon Company

Juan A. Castilleja, Jr.
Business Development
Space Exploration Division
The Boeing Company

Most Promising Engineer or Scientist Advanced Degree – Ph.D.

Baraquiél Reyna, Ph.D.
Deputy Manager
Exploration Medical Capability
NASA Johnson Space Center

Edward S. Jimenez, Jr., Ph.D.
Senior R&D Scientist
Software Systems Research & Development
Sandia National Laboratories

Most Promising Engineer Advanced Degree Master's

Alexandra Cintrón-Aponte
Senior Manufacturing Engineer I
Space and Airborne Systems
Raytheon Company

Education

Eduardo Divo, Ph.D.
Associate Professor
Department of Mechanical Engineering
Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University

Most Promising Engineer – Undergraduate Degree

Madeline Salazar
Integration Manager
Boeing Defense, Space & Security
The Boeing Company

Silvia Osuna
Electromechanical Engineer
Aerospace Systems
Northrop Grumman Corporation

*These individuals will be honored during the HENAAC Awards Luncheon, which will be held on Friday, October 3, 2014.

For more information on the 26th Annual HENAAC Conference or the Great Minds in STEM[®] organization please visit www.greatmindsinstem.org

Great Minds in STEM™ Vision

Be a national leader in keeping America technologically strong by promoting Science, Technology, Engineering and Math careers especially in underserved communities