

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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**Great Minds in STEM™ Founder and Chairman Recognized as Cathedral High School's Alumni of the Year**

*Monterey Park, CA – September 11, 2014* – Great Minds in STEM™ is delighted to announce the selection of its Founder and Chairman, Ray Mellado, as the recipient of Cathedral High School's Alumni of the Year Award. Mr. Mellado will be honored at the 13th Annual Dinner and Dance Scholarship Fundraiser “Return to Cathedral Gala” at Dodger Stadium in Los Angeles, CA on September 13, 2014.

Mr. Mellado was born and raised in Los Angeles, California, and he enrolled at Cathedral High School in 1962. After Cathedral he attended Whittier College on a partial football scholarship, and then returned to his alma mater as a history teacher and varsity football and basketball coach for 2 years. In 1972 he entered the private sector with the Xerox Corporation for what would be a 20-year career with the technology giant's national sales and marketing division.

Throughout his time at Xerox, Mr. Mellado took an active leadership role in the Hispanic professional and technical communities to increase the participation rate of Latinos in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math-based degrees and careers. In 1989 he formed the Great Minds in STEM™ organization, formerly known as HENAAC, in order to address this need full time. He remains Chairman of the Board to this day.

Mr. Mellado has been the recipient of several awards. In 2009, he was honored with the NASA Exceptional Public Service Medal. He received this medal for outstanding contributions to NASA's mission in honoring and documenting the success of outstanding Hispanic American professionals. In addition, Admiral Gary Roughead, Chief of Naval Operations, presented Mr. Mellado with the inaugural Admiral David Farragut Hispanic Diversity Champion Award in 2010. In October, 2013, Mr. Mellado, along with his wife and partner, Carmela, were inducted into the HENAAC Hall of Fame at the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the HENAAC Conference.

Each year, Cathedral offers financial aid to over 500 students at a cost of over 2 million annually. Over the last 11 years the Alumni Gala has raised over \$300,000 for needed financial assistance for the students of Cathedral. All the profits of the event go to the students of Cathedral. The Gala creates an evening for Cathedral alumni from all years to meet and reconnect with former classmates, families and friends and bring back the memories of Cathedral High School.

**About Great Minds in STEM™**

Great Minds in STEM™ is an education, national 501(c)3 nonprofit, whose vision is to be a national leader in keeping America technologically strong by promoting science, technology,

engineering and math careers especially in underserved communities. Now, in its 25<sup>th</sup> year, it remains the only national entity, which has consistently recognized the esteemed technical achievements of STEM role models through a selective, peer-reviewed process. For more information on the event, please contact Julie Magallanes-Guevara, Manager of Public Affairs at (213) 435-9934 and visit the Great Minds in STEM™ website at [www.greatmindsinstem.org](http://www.greatmindsinstem.org).

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