

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Great Minds in STEM™ and Shell Oil Company Present STEM Showdown™ in Louisiana for Fifth Consecutive Year

Monterey Park, CA, April 15, 2015 – Now in its fifth year of partnership, Great Minds in STEM (GMiS) and Shell Oil Company, will showcase the nationally-recognized STEM Showdown™ at the University of New Orleans in Louisiana. The event is set to take place on Friday, April 17, 2015.

In this highly competitive and exciting event, the STEM Showdown™ brings together underserved Louisiana high school students and students from five Louisiana universities to compete in an intensive series of science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) challenges. Teams comprised of both high school and college students, will participate in active learning exercises designed to foster awareness and build skills in the applications of technology. Students leave the program understanding the correlation between their math and science studies and future STEM careers.

Over 100 high school students hailing from St. Joseph's Academy, Hammond Magnet High School, Scotlandville Magnet High School, McDonogh 35 Preparatory High School, and Eleanor McMain High School will team up with their respective college counterparts from Louisiana State University, Southeastern Louisiana University, Southern University and A&M College, Tulane University and University of New Orleans, in an effort to win the coveted \$5,000 top prize. Parents and teachers will also have the opportunity to participate in simultaneous workshops held in collaboration with the Shell Oil Company and local university partners regarding college access, financial aid, and current issues pertaining to STEM education.

The event will welcome several guests from the Shell Oil Company throughout the day. They are Mike Alvarez, Manager of Workforce Development Initiatives, Richard Howe, Vice President, Deep Water, Surveillance & Technical Support; Qiana Wiggins, Communications Business Advisor; and Adrian Ford, Operations Integrity Coordinator; Shell Upstream Americas – Deep Water, who will also serve as the day's keynote speaker.

About Great Minds in STEM™

Great Minds in STEM™ is a national 501(c)3 nonprofit organization based in Los Angeles County with a 27-year history of keeping America technologically strong through the delivery of national STEM awareness programs for students, parents and teachers in underserved communities. Through the GMiS network, academic and career development opportunities are offered to students who are underrepresented in STEM fields. Along with GMiS' division, MentorNet, the organization is focused on working to build a diverse 21st Century STEM workforce in which all citizens contribute to innovation and experience prosperity. For more information please visit www.greatmindsinstem.org.

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