

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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**Great Minds in STEM™ and Walt Disney World Resort™ Introduce  
The Viva Technology™ Program  
to Kissimmee, Florida Students**

*Monterey Park, CA, May 15, 2015* – In partnership with Walt Disney World Resort™, Great Minds in STEM™ (GMiS) will host a Viva Technology™ three-part program at Horizon Middle School, in Kissimmee, FL. For the past 13 years, Walt Disney World Resort™ has been a continuous sponsor of GMiS programming. The Viva Technology™ event marks an expanded partnership with GMiS' K-12 programs.

As part of GMiS' national K-12 education programs, Viva Technology™ aims to engage students, teachers and parents with STEM challenges that foster awareness, build skills in the applications of science and technology and provide a STEM education and career pathway. Both a teacher and a parent orientation will be held on Thursday, May 28. During the teacher orientation, educators will be provided information and materials that acquaint them with Viva Technology™ and affords them educational resources so they can continue to encourage their students to pursue STEM degrees and careers. The parent orientation will lend information to help parents encourage their children to excel in math and science and envision themselves as future engineers and scientists.

On Friday, May 29, approximately 125 middle school students, in 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grade, will take part in the Viva Technology™ Student Day where they will experience a full day of STEM project-based exercises that challenge their understanding of the Engineering and Science Design Process. Local STEM college students from Florida International University (FIU), University of Central Florida (UCF) and from surrounding colleges and universities will serve as college near peer mentors, guiding student teams through various challenges posed to them throughout the day. The event's guest speaker will be past HENAAC Award winner, Mr. Ivan Diaz, Director, Parks Development and Integration from Walt Disney Park and Resorts™. Ms. Lourdes Mola, Manager, Corporate Citizenship of Walt Disney World Resort™ will also be in attendance.

**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, career development and mentoring opportunities are offered to students who are underrepresented in STEM fields. The organization is focused on working to build a diverse 21<sup>st</sup> Century STEM workforce in which all citizens contribute to innovation and experience prosperity. For more information please visit [www.greatmindsinstem.org](http://www.greatmindsinstem.org).

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