

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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**Great Minds in STEM™ and STEM Diversity Campaign Present
Viva Technology™ Program to Columbia Heights High School Students**

Monterey Park, CA, April 10, 2015 – Great Minds in STEM™ (GMiS) and STEM Diversity Campaign, led a Viva Technology™ program for the first time at Columbia Heights Educational Campus in Washington, DC on April 9 and 10, 2015.

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. The teacher component presented both parents and educators with STEM resources to enrich the student classroom environment, while lending information to help them encourage their children to excel in math and science and envision themselves as future engineers and scientists. Dr. Carlos Rodriguez of STEM Diversity Campaign, STEM Education, Energy & Workforce and Research Scientist was in attendance on Thursday, April 9, to welcome educators and parents.

On Friday, April 10, over 100 high school students experienced a full day of STEM project-based exercises that challenged their understanding of the Engineering and Science Design Process. Local STEM college students from Howard University, Marymount University, University of the District of Columbia, Fullerton College, George Mason University, Loyola Marymount University, George Washington University and Morgan State University served as College Captain near peer mentors and led their teams through the various trials. On-hand to greet and address students Friday morning, was Ms. Karen Harper, Executive Coordinator for the STEM Diversity Campaign. Attendees also had the opportunity to hear from Mr. Frederic Lancaster, Northrop Grumman Information Systems Program Director, of the Cyber Solutions Division.

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 underrepresented students 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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