



*Formerly HENAAC

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Great Minds in STEM™ Removes Phoenix As Potential Host City for
HENAAC Annual Conference**

LOS ANGELES, CA –Great Minds in STEM™ is strongly opposed to Arizona Senate Bill 1070 and is deeply concerned about the repercussions that will result from the debate of this terribly flawed piece of legislation with unfortunate consequences for ethnic minorities. In response to Arizona Senate Bill 1070 Great Minds in STEM™ removes Phoenix and its Convention Visitor Bureau as potential host city for HENAAC Annual Conference in 2013.

For the last twenty-two years the HENAAC Conference honors the nation's best and brightest Hispanic engineers, scientists and technology experts. The HENAAC Conference convenes top executives, cutting edge professionals, the brightest STEM students and representatives from multiple STEM organizations. It is nationally considered the premier venue for the effective recruitment, recognition, and retention of top Hispanic STEM talent. It is the nation's most prestigious stage for honoring excellence and highlighting outstanding role models to inspire students to pursue careers in technology and to motivate professionals to continue to connect with the Hispanic community.

Out of respect to the students, professionals, corporations, and institutions of higher learning we serve and support Great Minds in STEM™ does not approve nor does it agree with Governor Jan Brewer's decision and consequently will not host a conference that recognizes Hispanic STEM Professionals in Arizona. "Senate Bill 1070 is a costly measure which will jeopardize the safety of our constituencies, violate their civil rights and subject HENAAC Conference attendees to discrimination. We would reassess having the HENAAC Conference in Phoenix if SB 1070 is struck-down," said Chair and CEO Ray Mellado.

The HENAAC Conference is estimated at driving \$4 million in revenue to the host city of the conference, and a total of 6,000 hotel room nights. At a time when many counties and cities are facing severe budget challenges this decision will surely have an economic impact for the City of Phoenix.

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