



MEDIA CONTACT: Lauren Dugger or Leigh Goodall, Sunwest Communications: (214) 373-1601
ldugger@sunwestpr.com or lgoodall@sunwestpr.com

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**GREAT MINDS IN STEM RECOGNIZES PEDRO SUAREZ AS ENGINEER OF THE YEAR
DURING 2009 HENAAC CONFERENCE**

President of Dow Latin America receives highest honor during national conference

LOS ANGELES – Great Minds in STEM honored Pedro Suarez, President of Dow Latin America, The Dow Chemical Company, as the Engineer of the Year during the 2009 HENAAC Conference in Long Beach, Calif.

While the conference’s Award Show included stars like Tony Plana of the television series *Ugly Betty* and musical group Jazz on the Latin Side All Stars, the true stars of the evening were the award winners for their achievements in science, technology, engineering or math (STEM). Suarez was named Engineer of the Year by a Selection Committee of professionals from industry, academia and the government.

“Every HENAAC honoree must be truly stellar, as he or she represents the best in the field,” said Ray Mellado, CEO and Chairman of Great Minds in STEM. “Amazing role models like Pedro Suarez not only inspire our next generation of technical leaders, but raise the bar for that generation as well.”

Throughout his 30-year career with The Dow Chemical Company, Suarez has been committed to developing business, developing people’s talents and delivering improved results to the bottom line. As president of Dow Latin America, a region that includes all countries south of the United States, including Mexico, he has instilled a rigorous approach to developing new business opportunities, and to driving growth and innovation in the region. Under his leadership, Latin America has grown sales faster than Asia, and with higher profit margins, to become one of the best performing regions of the company. With just 8 percent of total Dow employees and only 5 percent of Dow’s capital spending for the past five years, he has led Dow Latin America to an outstanding average growth of 16 percent per year. In 2008, his teams surpassed sales goals with revenues of \$6.4 billion, an amount that represented 11 percent of Dow’s global sales.

In 2006, Suarez received the Genesis Award presented by Dow for excellence in fostering growth in his employees. He has been actively involved in a new trainee and internship program for college students that Dow Latin America initiated in 2008. As he considers diversity a top priority, he set and exceeded a goal to increase the percentage of women in leadership roles from 18 to 20 percent in 2008. The next goal is to reach 30 percent by 2012.

“I believe that having diversity, the mirror of society, in your company will bring much better ideas, more well-rounded ideas, and make the organization more successful,” said Suarez.

Based in Sao Paulo, Brazil, where he began his career with Dow, he is one of the top 25 executive leaders of the industry giant. He credits his achievements to the opportunities he found at Dow to learn and grow, starting early in his career.

“Having new challenges, working with different people, working in different environments with different businesses, is a fantastic way of developing in all areas. It’s a fantastic opportunity to be the best you can be,” said Suarez.

Suarez earned his bachelor’s and master’s degrees in engineering at Universidad Tecnológica Nacional de Buenos Aires.

For a complete listing of award winners presented during the HENAAC Conference, please visit www.greatmindsinstem.org.

HENAAC Conference

Focusing on effective recruitment, recognition, and retention of Hispanic talent in STEM, HENAAC conference activities honor excellence, build and reinforce networks, and strengthen company, agency and school pride. Through seminars, award shows, competitions, middle and high school programs and high-level panel discussions, the conference focuses on the crucial areas of STEM in education, government and industry to better prepare U.S. students and professionals for a future heavily reliant on these fields.

Great Minds in STEM

Great Minds in STEM, formerly known as HENAAC, is dedicated to keeping America strong by promoting STEM careers, especially in underserved communities. HENAAC will remain as the conference name, one aspect of the vast programming that Great Minds in STEM offers. While the organization’s name has changed, the vision and mission remain the same. The name change reflects the expanded role of Education Programs and other efforts taken to promote STEM careers in underserved communities. For more information, please visit www.greatmindsinstem.org.

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Great Minds in STEM honored Pedro Suarez (left), President of Dow Latin America, The Dow Chemical Company, as the Engineer of the Year during the 2009 HENAAC Conference in Long Beach, Calif. The award was presented by Juan Luciano (right), Senior Vice President Hydrocarbons & Energy/Basic Plastics/Joint Ventures, The Dow Chemical Company, during the conference’s Award Show.