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**GREAT MINDS IN STEM RECOGNIZES MARIA RUESS WITH PIONEER AWARD
DURING 2009 HENAAC CONFERENCE**

Lockheed Martin executive receives honor during national conference

LOS ANGELES – Great Minds in STEM honored Maria E. Ruess, Vice President, Business Development, Integrated Defense Technologies, Maritime Systems and Sensors, Lockheed Martin, with the Pioneer Award 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). Ruess was selected as the recipient of the Pioneer Award 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 of STEM. “Amazing role models like Maria Ruess not only inspire our next generation of technical leaders, but raise the bar for that generation as well.”

Starting her career at a manufacturing plant in Cali, Colombia, Ruess has become Vice President, Business Development, Integrated Defense Technologies, Lockheed Martin Maritime Systems and Sensors. She is one of two women in Lockheed Martin, Electronic Systems, Business Development, to hold the title of vice president, and she is the only Hispanic woman vice president in Lockheed Martin Corporation. Ruess leads a team of 38 business development professionals charged with capturing new business while maintaining and growing existing business within the Integrated Defense Technologies (IDT) line of business. She is responsible for over \$1 billion in order commitments and for managing an \$18 million budget.

In addition to her many professional responsibilities, Ruess takes particular pleasure in helping others develop their own potential. She currently mentors seven professionals throughout the corporation. Her interest in developing human potential is also reflected in the organizations in which she actively participates. She is a member of the Society of Women Engineers; an Executive Committee Member of Lockheed Martin’s Hispanic Leadership Council; a member of Lockheed Martin’s Women’s Success Forum, as well as the Hispanic Mentoring and Leadership Association.

Ruess earned her bachelor’s degree in industrial engineering at Pontifica Universidad Javeriana de Colombia and her M.B.A. from The George Washington University.

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 Maria Rues, Vice President, Business Development, Integrated Defense Technologies, Maritime Systems and Sensors, Lockheed Martin, with the Pioneer Award during the 2009 HENAAC Conference in Long Beach, Calif. The award was presented by Paul Lemmo (right), Vice President Business Development Analysis, Lockheed Martin Electronic Systems, during the conference's Award Show.