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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Department of Defense and LA District US Army Corp of Engineers Awards HENAAC first STEM Contract.**

Los Angeles – HENAAC has been awarded the first Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) School Support Initiative Program (SSIP) from the U. S. Army Corp of Engineers (USACE) Los Angeles District, in partnership with the Department of Defense (DoD) Management and Equal Opportunity. HENAAC has named the program, the HENAAC Value Chain Initiative (HVCI) Pilot Program. This program has been funded for one base year with four option years for program implementation.

The HVCI will establish a STEM pilot program that provides educational enrichment opportunities for students, teachers and families of the Roosevelt Complex (RC) in the Boyle Heights area of East Los Angeles. The RC is made up of 13 elementary schools and 3 middle schools all connected to Roosevelt High School.

“HENAAC is proud to partner with DoD and the USACE on this innovative pilot program to promote STEM,” said Ray Mellado, HENAAC CEO. “We will engage students, families and teachers in various programs designed to inform, motivate, guide and prepare more students for the demanding academic course work that will enable them to succeed in a STEM degree major in college. Students who earn STEM degrees can look forward to promising careers in the growing technical arena,” Mellado explained. One of the program’s many goals is to establish a STEM program that can be replicated in inner-cities and rural neighborhoods nationwide.

Clarence Johnson, Principal Director, Office of Office of Diversity Management and Equal Opportunity, stated, “Our ability to fill the great demand for a qualified technical workforce is an issue that our nation and the DoD must address. We know that developing more technical talent from all segments of our society is our best hope for meeting this demand. The HVCI is a positive step toward making this objective a national priority.”

For more information on the HVCI you can go to [henaac.org](http://henaac.org) or call HENAAC at 323 262-0997

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