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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HENAAC SUPPORTS HOLLENBECK MIDDLE SCHOOL SCIENCE FAIR

On March 11, 2009 HENAAC through its STEM-Up Initiative had an incredible opportunity to support this year Science Fair held at Hollenbeck Middle School. There were a total of 218 entries for this 7th Annual Event. Student's projects varied from analyzing the contamination of waterways and exploring engineering principles to the comparison of the efficiency of every day products. The science fair was coordinated by three Hollenbeck Middle School science teachers, Fred Quintrell, Ismael Cueva and Deope Singh and was supported by the entire Middle School Community.

All projects were judged in their respective categories ranging from electrical engineering, chemistry and physics to behavioral science. Judges for this years fair, included representatives from the United States Army Corp of Engineers- Los Angeles District Office Jennie Ayala, Daniel White, Jose Rocha, and Gwen Howell; judges from the Boeing Company were Mina Martinez, Miguel Reyes, and Oscar Cerón; representatives from Northrop Grumman, Carl Conliff, Peter Quast, Eddie Gonzalez, Karina Reynozo, and Maritza Cervantes; Past HENAAC Award Winner and representative from Raytheon, Todd Moore; and from the United States Navy, Lt. Commander Sam Delgado, Timothy Pollear, and Alexandra Boone. Math and Science teachers from neighboring Belvedere Middle school were also on hand to give support to the students; they included Melissa Imaenzi, Alejandra Bustos, Kara Ganley, and Gloria Duran. The judges gave the students immediate feedback and were able to award ribbons for a job well done.

Now in its 7th year, the Science Fair provides a forum for students to have an important opportunity to speak with professionals in the fields of science and engineering about their projects as well as their future goals and aspirations. In addition to meeting judges, students had opportunities to meet a former graduate of Hollenbeck Middle School, Oscar Cerón, who is now an Engineer with the Boeing Company. Mr. Cerón, was an inspiration to the students and in particular he expressed his commitment to continue supporting young minds in future STEM-Up events.

An awards assembly was held Friday March 13th, where 6th, 7th and 8th grade students received medals for top honors in several categories, including physics, engineering, chemistry, health and environmental science among others. Hollenbeck middle school will be sending top students to compete in the Los Angeles County Science Fair taking place April 15-17, 2009, where students will have the opportunity to vie for a place in the state championships taking place in May.



About HENAAC:

HENAAC Vision

Keeping America technologically strong by promoting Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) careers especially in underserved communities.

HENAAC Mission

- To educate, motivate and enable more underserved students to achieve careers in STEM
- To develop and leverage Hispanic STEM talent to play a leadership role
- To engage families, educators and employers to support underserved students and communities in STEM careers
- To inspire our nation through recognition of the achievements of Hispanics and other role models in STEM
- To lead collaboration and cooperation within the STEM

About The STEM-Up Initiative:

The STEM-Up Initiative is a HENAAC Education Program that will bring Science Technology Engineering and Math career pathways to light in the Boyle Heights Community by creating strategies to integrate STEM career pathways into schools and the local community.

The STEM-Up Initiative is funded through a contract between HENAAC and the U.S. Department of Defense as administered by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Los Angeles District Office.