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**For Immediate Release**

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**Great Minds in STEM™ and United States Army Partner to Bring the Viva Technology Program to the Students of the Alief Independent School District in Houston, TX!**

As a proud step in continuing the ongoing effort to expose middle school students to science, technology, engineering, and math careers (STEM), Great Minds in STEM™ and United States Army are partnering to return the nationally acclaimed Viva Technology™ Program to Houston, TX!

Viva Technology™ is Great Minds in STEM™'s National K-12 Educational Program. It is designed to engage students, parents and teachers in activities that stimulate their interest in the applications of technology and provide a STEM career focused path to higher education. It also helps students understand the correlation between their math and science studies and the many exciting careers in technology.

The Viva Technology Program consists of two separate elements, both conducted at Doc Taylor High School. The parent portion will take place on **Thursday, October 13, 2011** from **6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.** The student portion will take place on **Friday, October 14, 2011** from **8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.**

The parent portion will feature an orientation where they will receive information about what their child will learn from participating in the program, why encouraging student interest in math and science will positively impact their child's future and what STEM career opportunities lie ahead for these youth. Session will be presented in both English and Spanish.

The Viva Technology™ Student Program will aim to empower, educate, and excite the students from the Alief Independent School District about their many STEM career opportunities. Students will experience a day filled with hands-on competitive and educational exercises designed to explore math and science concepts. Attendees will work in teams led by engineering and science college students from surrounding universities and colleges including, but not limited to, University of Houston-Downtown and Rice University. Students will also interact with United States Army representatives. Present at the event to give a key note speech, will be a US Army official. Active participation gives students opportunities to accrue points and win educational technology related prizes at the end of the day.

For more information about Viva Technology™ and future programs please visit [www.vivatechnology.org](http://www.vivatechnology.org)

**About Great Minds in STEM™**

Be a national leader in keeping America technologically strong by promoting Science, Technology, Engineering and Math careers especially in underserved communities. For more information about Great Minds in STEM please visit [www.greatmindsinstem.org](http://www.greatmindsinstem.org)