



Contact: Lorenz Cisne  
Coordinator, Education Programs  
Phone: (323)262-0997  
Fax: (323)262-0946  
Email: LCisne@greatmindsinstem.org

**For Immediate Release**

September 17, 2011

**Great Minds in STEM™ and Shell Oil Company Partner to Bring the  
Viva Technology™ Program to the students of  
Charles H. Milby High School and Westside High School in Houston, Texas  
Hosted at the University of Houston**

As a proud step in continuing the ongoing effort to expose high school students to science, technology, engineering, and math careers (STEM), Great Minds in STEM™ and Shell Oil Company are partnering to bring the nationally acclaimed Viva Technology Program to the students of **Charles H. Milby High School** and **Westside High School** in Houston, Texas.

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 three separate elements. The Teacher portion will take place on Thursday, September 15, 2011 between 4:30 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. The Parent Orientation will also take place on Thursday September 15, 2011 and it will be held between 6:30 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. Both of these components will be conducted at **Charles H. Milby High School**. Lastly, Student Day Program will take place on Friday, September 16, 2011, from 8:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. This student component will be take place at University of Houston, in partnership with the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers (SHPE) University of Houston-Student Chapter.

Educators and parents will be given an orientation in which they will receive information about what their child/student 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. Sessions will be presented in both English and Spanish.

The Viva Technology™ Student Program will aim to empower, educate, and excite the students of Charles H. Milby High School and Westside High School about their many STEM career opportunities. The Independent Petroleum Association of America (IPAA) – Education Center has been working in collaboration with Shell Oil Company and Great Minds in STEM™ in order to recruit 100 bright and talented students whom are already part of various STEM academies in their respective high schools to participate in this event.

During the Student Day Program participants 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 the University of Houston, most of which will be comprised by the members from the SHPE University of Houston-Student Chapter. College students will also be able to network with Shell Oil Company representatives. Present at the event to give a key note speech, will be **Claudia Tello, Shell Deer Park Refining Company Energy and Mass Balance Coordinator**.

Active participation gives students opportunities to accrue points and win educational technology related prizes at the end of the day. One student will be able to win a grand prize of a netbook laptop! With this prize, Shell Oil Company is also including a 6 Gigue Tech set which is comprise of a mouse, number keypad, and ear phones; a perfect addition to better prepare this student for the new school year.

For more information about Viva Technology™ and future programming 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)