



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

**For Immediate Release**

December 13, 2011

**Great Minds in STEM™ and Shell Oil Company to Bring the Viva Technology Program for the first time to the students of Mansfield Junior/Senior High School in Pennsylvania**

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 **Shell Oil Company** are partnering to bring the nationally acclaimed Viva Technology Program to the students, parents, and educators of 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> grade students of Mansfield Junior/Senior High School for the first time!

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, December 15, 2011 from 3:30pm until 5:00pm. The parent portion will take place on same day from 5:30pm until 7:00pm. Both sessions will be conducted at Mansfield Junior/Senior High School. The student portion will take place on Friday, December 16, 2011 from 8:30am until 3:14pm. This full day program will be facilitated in the gymnasium.

Both the parent and teacher components will feature an orientation where participants 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 future and what STEM career opportunities lie ahead for these youth. Sessions for the parent component will be presented in both English and Spanish.

The Viva Technology Student Program will aim to empower, educate, and excite the students of Mansfield Junior/Senior High School 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, Mansfield University, Elmira College, Lycoming College, and Bingham University. Students will also interact with Shell Oil Company representatives. Present at the event to give a key note speech, will be Scott Bruner P.E., Sr. Staff Production Engineer of Shell Exploration and Production Company. 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 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)