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For the First Time Great Minds in STEM™ and Oklahoma Air Logistics Center, Tinker Air Force Base Partner to Bring the Viva Technology™ Program to the Students of Monroney Middle School in Oklahoma

Great Minds in STEM™ and Oklahoma City Air Logistics Center (OC-ALC), Tinker Air Force Base (TAFB) Engineering Directorate (EN) are partnering for the first time to bring the nationally acclaimed Viva Technology™ Program to Oklahoma City. Monroney Middle School has been selected by OC-ALC/EN as the only school in the country to receive the program as part of this grant.

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 Orientation will take place on Thursday, October 27, 2011 at Monroney Middle School from 3:30pm until 5:00pm. The Parent Orientation will also take place in Monroney Middle School on Thursday, October 27, 2011 between the hours of 6:30am and 8:00pm. The student portion will take place on Friday, October 28, 2011 at the Mid Del Technology Center from 8:45am - 3:00pm. The Mid-Del Technology Center is a community facility that provides full-time and short-term educational programs and services to secondary and adult students as well as customized training for business and industry.

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 Monroney Middle 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, but not limited to, Rose State College. Middle school and university participants will all have the opportunity to interact with United States Air Force representatives.

Present at the event to give a key note speech, will be Ben T. Robinson, current Owner/President of Sentry One LLC. His 33 years of active military service includes combat operations in both the U.S. Air Force and the U.S. Army. Mr. Robinson retired from active duty with the U.S. Air Force as a Brigadier General in 2002. Despite his retirement he continues to work hard to promote STEM careers amongst our youth. Cynthia Kennedy, K-12 S&E Outreach Coordinator from Tinker Air Force Base, has been quoted to say "Ben is the voice and face for Oklahoma's STEM initiatives."

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

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