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Great Minds in STEM™ and Shell Oil Company Partner to Bring the Viva Technology Program for the 1st Year to St. Charles Parish Public Schools in Luling, LA

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 St. Charles Parish Public Schools in Luling, LA.

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 two of which will be conducted at The Satellite Center in Luling, LA. The Teacher portion will take place on **Thursday, November 10, 2011**, from 3:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. The parent portion will take place on **Thursday, November 10, 2011**, from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. The student portion will take place at St. Charles Parish's Professional Learning Center on **Friday, November 11, 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 student portion will take place at the Professional Learning Center.

The Viva Technology Student Program will aim to empower, educate, and excite the students of St. Charles Parish Public Schools 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 New Orleans, Xavier University, and Tulane University. Students will also interact with Shell Oil Company representatives. Present at the event to give a key note speech, will be Andre Barrio, Civil Engineer of Shell Exploration & Production. 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