



Contact: Ángel S. Haro
Manager, Education Programs
Phone: (323) 262-0997 x625
Fax: (323) 262-0946
Email: AHaro@greatmindsinstem.org

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Great Minds in STEM™ in Partnership with the Northrop Grumman Foundation Brings the Viva Technology™ Program to Will Rogers Middle School in Lawndale, California

As a proud step in continuing efforts to expose middle school students to science, technology, engineering, and math careers (STEM), Great Minds in STEM™ and the Northrop Grumman Foundation are partnering to bring the nationally acclaimed Viva Technology™ Program to Will Rogers Middle School in Lawndale, CA. Will Rogers Middle School has been selected by the Northrop Grumman Foundation as one of two schools in the country to receive the program as part of this grant. In May of this year, the Northrop Grumman Foundation had the opportunity to host its first program in Rockville, Maryland at Parkland Magnet Middle School. After the great outreach that was done with this program in the east coast, the Northrop Grumman Foundation and Great Minds in STEM™ look forward to build upon this momentum and carry it over to the west coast event later this month. This will be the first year taking the program to Will Rogers Middle School.

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; all conducted at Will Rogers Middle School, in Lawndale, CA. The teacher portion will take place on Thursday, September 29, 2011 from 1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. The parent portion will take place later that evening on Thursday, September 29, 2011, from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. The student portion will take place on Friday, September 30, 2011, from 8:20 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

The teacher and parent portion will feature an orientation where they will receive information about what their student(s) 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 of Will Rogers 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, El Camino College, California State University, Dominguez Hills, and the University of Southern California. Students will also interact with several Northrop Grumman representatives volunteering their time to help facilitate the various STEM-activities.

Throughout the course of the three-part program, there will be several key note guests on behalf of Northrop Grumman. Present during the Teacher Orientation to speak with Will Rogers Middle School's educators will be **Dr. Juan Rivera, Director, Space Systems Division** for Northrop Grumman, and Great Minds in STEM Board Member. Present to speak to the parents later that evening will be **Mr. Ramon Coronel, Master Program Planner, Space Systems Division**. At the Student Day Program, audience members will have a special presentation by two outstanding key note guest speakers from Northrop Grumman: **Mr. Frank Flores, Vice President, Engineering Strike and Surveillance Systems Division** as well as **Ms. Jaclyn Silva, Section Manager Communications & Data Systems Engineering**. In addition to our guest speakers, also present to interact with our student audience will be **Ms. Sandra Evers-Manly, President of the Northrop Grumman Foundation**.

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

About Great Minds in STEM™ – Vision

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

About the Northrop Grumman Foundation

The Northrop Grumman Foundation supports diverse and sustainable programs for students and teachers. These programs create innovative education experiences in science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

For more information please visit: www.northropgrumman.com/foundation