



**IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Viva Technology™!**

*Celebrates Ten Years of Motivating the Next Generation of Scientists and Engineers*

**Los Angeles, California - December 14, 2011** – Today, Great Minds in STEM (GMiS) launches the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration of its National Viva Technology™ Program first held at Manual Arts High School, in South Los Angeles. To date, Viva Technology™ has reached over 70,000 inner-city and rural middle school and high school students, parents and teachers across 18 states, including CA, TX, FL, NY, IL, NJ, and GA. These states are 7 of the 10 states identified by the 2010 U.S. Census, with the fastest growing population of underrepresented youth.

Viva Technology™ continues to energize students, teachers and parents with activities that stimulate their interest and academic achievement in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM). Its unique design provides bilingual Parent Orientations for families, Teacher Workshops filled with innovative resources, and a Student Day that brings the program to full circle.

“The Viva Technology Program has changed lives,” says Ray Mellado, GMiS CEO and Chairman of the Board. “Over the last ten years we have had students become STEM college graduates and are now in the STEM workforce. The nexus of parents, students and teachers that participate in Viva Technology become our greatest advocates for STEM.”

Each Student Day brings excitement and awareness of STEM to 100 students with hands-on competitive and educational exercises. Students work through a series of STEM challenges in teams led by College Captains (STEM college students). At the conclusion of the school-day program, students have a chance to win educational prizes, including a Netbook laptop computer.

John Santos, founder and lead teacher at the Imaging Sciences & Technology Academy at Manual Arts High School observes, “After 10 years of spreading Viva Technology across the country, the spirit, purpose and kinetic energy that one feels when you attend one of these programs remains the same.”

Throughout 2012, Great Minds in STEM will celebrate the anniversary and achievements of Viva Technology™. The celebration includes a planned Viva Technology™ at Manual Arts High School in late spring 2012 and the dissemination of a 10<sup>th</sup> Year Anniversary Yearbook at the Viva Technology™ Program during the HENAAC Conference at Disney's Coronado Springs Resort, in October 2012.

For information, sponsorship opportunities and updates on the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Viva Technology™, please visit <http://www.greatmindsinstem.org/vivatechnology/> or contact Lupe Munoz-Alvarado, Director of Education Programs at (323) 262-0997.

**About Great Minds in STEM**

Great Minds in STEM is a national 501c3 nonprofit, whose vision is to be a national leader in keeping America technologically strong by promoting science, technology, engineering and math careers especially in underserved communities. It is the only national entity, which honors the technical achievements of Hispanic role models in a Hall of Fame. Please visit [www.greatmindsinstem.org](http://www.greatmindsinstem.org).

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