



**Great Minds in STEM™ Proudly Partners with the United States Army Corps of Engineers
To bring STEM Awareness Programs
San Antonio, TX**

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For Immediate Release

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At the outset of a new academic year, Great Minds in STEM (GMiS) is proud to announce its partnership with the **United States Army Corps of Engineers** to unveil its latest education program moving across the nation. Coming to **Highlands High School** in **San Antonio, TX** GMiS presents the new **Two-Part STEM Awareness Program**.

At the forefront of meeting GMiS's mission of being a national leader in keeping America technologically strong by promoting Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) careers, the Two-Part STEM Awareness Program is geared towards fostering and motivating increased awareness and interest in STEM among underrepresented inner-city students grades K-12. By bringing light to these areas of study, GMiS and the United States Army Corps of Engineers aim to inspire the future class of graduating scientists and engineers, so they are equipped with a STEM career focus as they continue on their journey towards higher education.

The Two-Part STEM Awareness Program prides itself on applying its twofold approach at each school site commencing with a Parent Orientation Session, and concluding with a Full Student Day Program. The parent session will take place on **Wednesday, September 21, 2011** from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. The student day program will follow the parent orientation on **Thursday, September 22, 2011** from 8:00 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. By reaching out to the parents of the student participants the night prior, we encourage them to serve as the ambassadors of our program to get their sons and daughters excited about the day that will follow. Both sessions will take place at Highlands High School.

The parent presentation will be delivered in both English and Spanish, providing parents with information and resources from the local San Antonio area and opportunities in STEM along with what their child can expect from participating in the Two-Part STEM Awareness Program. A large focus of the presentation will be to introduce to the parents GMiS's hands-on approach, while highlighting the importance of getting their children excited about math and science courses that can have a significant impact on their professional careers. The student day program has been developed to give students a full day of hands-on learning in which they compete as teams in STEM-inspired exercises designed to give a real-world application of science, technology, engineering, and math concepts. Each team is led by college students majoring in a STEM-field, from a neighboring university.

Additionally, present to give a key note speech at the student day will be **Eli Pena**, DA Civil Engineer for the United States Army Corps of Engineers. Also present at the program will be **Lolly Byington**, Executive Director for San Antonio's non-profit community builder organization, **American Sunrise**. American Sunrise is a community outreach effort founded by former HUD Secretary and former San Antonio Mayor **Henry G. Cisneros** and his wife, the Honorable **Mary Alice Cisneros**, currently a Councilmember for San Antonio.

Active participation throughout the course of the day gives students the opportunity to gather points and win tech-savvy, educational incentives at the end of the day.

For more information about Great Minds in STEM™ and the Two-Part STEM Awareness Programs, please visit www.greatmindsinstem.org.