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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**USACE BRINGS THE VIVA TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM TO THE
NEW YORK DISTRICT**

New York, NY November 2-3, 2006, Despite the US Army Corps of Engineers current concerns with Water Resources, Environment, Infrastructure, War Fighting, and Homeland Security, they still managed to take the time to reach out to the community and sponsor the Viva Technology program. The sole purpose of the program is to show students the various disciplines and opportunities in Engineering, Math, Science, and Technology. Educators at Martin Luther King Art & Technology High School were proud and pleased to see their students take part in this event and see the program come to life on the ir campus.

The Army Corp of Engineers showed their support by having more than 20 representatives present at the Viva Day. Each representative had the opportunity to provide their input and inspiration to the students throughout the day, whether it was to assist them with difficult challenges or just to interact with the students. Guest speaker, Maj. Trinidad Gonzalez, provided a thorough account of what opportunities the USACE has to offer while giving everyone a good laugh with his amiable personality.

This program was a combination of a parent information night and a student day. What made this school so unique was that since the school is in the heart of Manhattan, many parents were not able to attend due transportation issues. Instead, a few parents had already met with each other and assigned parents to attend and obtain all the information about the program so that they could then relate the information to the rest of them at a later date. In addition, many students themselves represented their parents and there were a lot of good questions that came from the students regarding the college process.

Because students came to the parent orientation the night before, the energy was already high. The word had spread regarding the viva program, what it was all about and what was to be expected. The program started off with a code breaker challenge and the students at MLK enjoyed working together to figure out the pattern provided.

The gear car challenge that followed proved to be very exciting and difficult. Using their everyday knowledge of cars and gears, the students were able to create ingenious designs which would be judged for speed and whether they could rise on an incline. Time was running short and all the students were in a rush to test and finish building the cars, but eventually all the cars ran exquisitely.

Coming on to the last challenge, the Dream Challenge, the MLK students really showed there creativity and positive energy. All the ir inventions were new and exciting but the delivery of the presentations just left the audience in awe. Nonstop laughter and just a hearty good time came with every presentation and all the students enjoyed sharing their ideas with each other.

Overall, the program proved to be a tremendous success, one the students and anyone else who took part will never forget. Since its debut in 2001, the Viva Technology Program has been conducted at over 50 sites across the nation, including locations in 12 states, in various regions of the country. For more information about Viva Technology Programs and upcoming events, including pictures and detailed descriptions, please visit www.henaac.org.