

Contact: Monica Villafana, Esq.
Director
Viva Technology Program
Phone: 323 262-5545
FAX: 323 262-0946
monicavillafana@henaac.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

***THE IBM CORPORATION PARTNERS WITH VIVA TECHNOLOGY TO BRING
TECHNOLOGY AWARENESS TO THE CLASSROOM***

November 15, 2006, Austin, Texas - One Hundred 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders at Ridgetop Elementary School in Austin, TX will participate in Viva Technology, an exciting science, engineering, and technology awareness program presented by the Hispanic Engineer National Achievement Awards Corporation (HENAAC). The IBM Corporation, an active supporter of HENAAC's mission to inspire and motivate more students to prepare for and pursue careers in technology, is sponsoring the two-part event to be held November 16 – 17, 2006.

On Viva Day, the students will work in teams to tackle the program's challenges and competitions. Each team will be led by a college student from the University of Texas at Austin who is majoring in science, engineering, computer science or related technology fields. Throughout the day, these team captains will also take advantage of the opportunity to encourage their younger teammates to go on to college and to become professionals in the world of technology.

Students will also meet real engineers and other technology professionals from IBM who work in the Austin area, including the featured guest speaker, IBM's Vice President, Systems p Operations, Mr. Robert Amezcua. A past HENAAC honoree, Mr. Amezcua is also a member of HENAAC's board of directors. Born in El Paso, Texas, Mr. Amezcua travels to locations throughout the world to carry out his professional responsibilities.

Prior to Viva Day for students, the program includes an evening Parent Seminar where Ridgeport parents will learn about college choices and the academic path that will prepare their students to earn technical degrees, and about the role of standardized tests. Information about the top engineering programs at universities across the nation and discussions about financial aid will be useful as they begin to explore educational and career options for their children in engineering and science.

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 very regions of the country. For more information about Viva Technology Programs and upcoming events, including pictures and detailed descriptions, please visit www.henaac.org.

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