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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SHELL OIL PARTNERS WITH VIVA TECHNOLOGY TO BRING TECHNOLOGY AWARENESS TO THE CLASSROOM

December 1, 2006, Atlanta, Georgia -- A group of 9th grade students at Riverwood High School participated in Viva Technology, an exciting science, engineering, and technology awareness program presented by the Hispanic Engineer National Achievement Awards Corporation (HENAAC). This program was made possible for a second year in a row through a grant from Shell Oil, an active supporter of HENAAC's mission to inspire and motivate more students to prepare for and pursue careers in technology.

On Viva Day, the students worked in teams to tackle the program's challenges and competitions. Each team was led by two college captains from Georgia State University, Georgia Institute of Technology and Georgia Perimeter College. Throughout the day, these team captains all took advantage of the opportunity to encourage their younger teammates to go on to college and to become professionals in the world of technology. Many of the participating students commented on how exciting and motivating it was to have an older student who could relate to their current struggles as prospective college students.

Students bonded with their teammates and captains and competed throughout the day in various challenges. They began the day with a geology activity, followed by a car race with cars they built using a balloon as their energy source, and ended with a Dream Challenge Invention in which they were required to apply the skills they learned throughout the day to create an innovative invention for the year 2030.

Students also met an engineer from Shell Oil who works in the Atlanta area, Health Safety and Environmental Engineer, Jerome Smith. Mr. Smith was able to connect with students letting them know of the many viable options that are available to them as engineers. With the use of materials such as construction site protective helmets and mathematics exercises, students remained engaged and were eager to participate during Mr. Smith's presentation.

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.

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