

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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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

December 15, 2006, Atlanta, Georgia One Hundred 8th graders at Jean Childs Young Middle School participated in Viva Technology, an exciting science, engineering, and technology awareness program presented by the Hispanic Engineer National Achievement Awards Corporation (HENAAC). Shell Oil, an active supporter of HENAAC's mission to inspire and motivate more students to prepare for and pursue careers in technology, sponsored the two-part event held December 14-15, 2006.

On Viva Day, the students worked in teams to tackle the program's challenges and competitions. Each team was led by a college student from Georgia State University, Georgia Institute of Technology and Georgia Perimeter College who is majoring in science, engineering, computer science or related technology fields. 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.

Students also met real engineers and other technology professionals from Shell Oil who work in the Atlanta area, including the featured guest speaker, Health Safety and Environmental Engineer, Jerome Smith. A Civil and Petroleum Engineer, 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.

Prior to Viva Day for students, the program includes an evening Parent Seminar where Jean Childs Young Middle School parents learned 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 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.

#####

