



Contact: Monica Villafaña, Esq.  
Director, Viva Technology Program  
323-262-0997  
[monicavillafana@henaac.org](mailto:monicavillafana@henaac.org)

### **TECHNOLOGY TO THE 14<sup>TH</sup> POWER:**

#### **HENAAC, HACLA, LAUSD BEYOND THE BELL, THE 14<sup>TH</sup> LOS ANGELES CITY COUNCIL DISTRICT & SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA EDISON PARTNER TO BRING VIVA TECHNOLOGY TO 4 LOS ANGELES SCHOOLS**

In a joint effort to expose Elementary and Middle School students to science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) careers, HENAAC, the Housing Authority of the City of Los Angeles (HACLA), the Los Angeles Unified School District's Beyond the Bell Program, the 14<sup>th</sup> Los Angeles City Council District and Southern California Edison partnered to bring the acclaimed Viva Technology Program to four Los Angeles City Schools.

This pilot program first announced by Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa while still the Councilmember for the 14<sup>th</sup> District, is the first public/private partnership of its kind. The partnership takes into account several entities who serve these students individually. By working together in this joint effort, all organizations are making a successful impact in the student's education and exposing them to career opportunities for the future.

The four schools selected for the program are Murchison Elementary, Christopher Dena Elementary, El Sereno Middle School, and Stevenson Middle School, all located in the 14<sup>th</sup> Council District. Each school has a 10 week afterschool program where students are exposed to various careers in STEM. Viva Technology afterschool program sessions include hands on activities around topics such as bio-engineering, space technology, technology of paper, chemical engineering, structural engineering, and energy.

The choice of middle and feeder elementary schools for the program is specifically intended provide a bridge between elementary and middle school grades to foster a continual development base for science, math, and engineering skills across multiple grade levels. The two elementary school programs also target students residing in the Ramona Gardens and Estrada Courts public housing communities to make sure these students are taking part in afterschool programs and activities.

“It is wonderful to see the faces of these young minds as we expose them to career opportunities which they have not explored before” said Monica Villafaña, Esq. Director of the Viva Technology Program, “the program gives the students a context of why doing well in math and science is important and how these fields can provide exciting options for their future.”

For more information about Viva Technology Programs and upcoming events, please visit [www.henaac.org](http://www.henaac.org)