America needs more engineers and scientists. Now. From infrastructure to the Internet, computer chips to chemistry, energy to the environment, national defense to international finance, our economy is fueled by the great minds who power these industries.

The United States has a home-grown supply of future engineers and scientists right in our back yards. We also have an infrastructure of motivated teachers and parents who are hungry for programs that can help prepare their kids for a STEM future. We have universities teaming with students who are just an inch of support and guidance away from earning their STEM degrees. We have corporations, government agencies, research institutions and military commands ready and willing to hire them. And we have generations of successful STEM professionals from underserved communities who support GMiS as role models and mentors.

For 32 years, Great Minds in STEM has been creating and delivering an ever-expanding suite of innovative programs designed to create awareness, advocate readiness, and celebrate success in STEM – especially in the underserved communities that need them most.

And we’re just getting started.

Great Minds in STEM (GMS) is a non-profit organization that focuses on Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) educational awareness programs for underserved students from kindergarten to career.

www.greatmindsinstem.org
Great Minds in STEM is at the forefront of implementing innovative programs and partnerships focused on the continuous expansion of STEM education opportunities for our nation's underserved communities.

1989: The first HENAAC Conference was held as a means to identify, honor and document the contributions of outstanding Hispanic STEM professionals. Rear Admiral Benjamin Montoya selected as first Engineer of the Year.

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1998: The GMiS Hall of Fame founded to recognize the world-class achievements of the most accomplished past HENAAC award winners. 14 members were inducted in its inaugural class to mark the organization's 10 year anniversary. The Hall of Fame now has 35 inductees.

1999: The inaugural GMiS College Bowl is held. This very popular conference competition provides an experience unlike any other for entities to interact with students.

2000: The GMiS Scholars Program launches. Since then over 1,500 STEM students have received scholarships totaling more than $4.6 million. GMiS continues to award hundreds of thousands of dollars in travel grants and registration assistance to university students attending the HENAAC conference and serving K-12 programs.

2001: The Viva Technology Program was created to engage underserved and underrepresented youth, teachers and parents in STEM opportunities so they could gain understanding, appreciation, motivation and access to STEM-related education and career fields. Since then, Viva Technology has been implemented in 18 states and the District of Columbia, reaching over 137,000 students, teachers and parents!

2004: Future STEM Leaders Awards launches to honor the next generation of our nation's U.S. Department of Defense personnel by highlighting Cadets and ROTC students for their academic and leadership achievements.

2008: The STEM-Up Initiative, a first-of-its-kind comprehensive community-based program, was introduced in the Boyle Heights neighborhood of East Los Angeles. The initiative implements a value chain of opportunities to create Awareness, Inspiration, Motivation and Skills for students from 20 public schools, their parents, and teachers. Locally based STEM entities are actively engaged in associated activities.

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2014: MentorNet, established in 1997, becomes a division of Great Minds in STEM. Through MentorNet, GMiS offers structured virtual mentoring year-round, leveraging technology to match STEM students with professional mentors. Any STEM student at an accredited institution of higher education in the U.S. and professionals with STEM degrees may join.

2015: GMiS, along with its 6 sister engineering diversity organizations, receives support from the National Science Foundation (NSF) for a collaborative research project titled ASSIST, to increase the representation of underserved, early-career, engineering faculty. The success of this project led to a broader NSF INCLUDES award (#1649384) for a design and development launch project titled LEVERAGE.

2016: GMiS enters into a historic partnership with the Computing Alliance of Hispanic Serving Institutions (CAHSI) for the GMiS Conference.


2018: GMiS is awarded the inaugural U.S. Army CCDC HBCU/MI Student Design Competition.

2019: GMiS introduces the first recipients of California Medical Scholarships, a program that provides financial assistance for underrepresented students pursuing medical degrees in California.

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