

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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**Great Minds in STEM™ and Shell Oil Company Present STEM Showdown™**  
*High School and University Students Unite for a Contest of the Minds*

*Monterey Park, CA, November 5, 2015* – Now in its second year of partnership, Great Minds in STEM (GMiS) and Shell Oil Company, will showcase the nationally-recognized STEM Showdown™ at the University of Houston in Texas. The event is set to take place on Friday, November 6, 2015.

In this highly competitive and exciting event, the STEM Showdown™ brings together underserved high school students and students from universities across the Houston area, to compete in an intensive series of science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) challenges. Teams comprised of both high school and college students, will participate in active learning exercises designed to foster awareness and build skills in the applications of technology. Students leave the program understanding the correlation between their math and science studies and future STEM careers.

Over 100 high school students hailing from the IPAA/PESA Petroleum Academies in Houston ISD and Fort Worth ISD and their respective schools, Energy Institute High School, Charles H. Milby High School, Young Woman's College Preparatory Academy, Southwest High School and Westside High School will team up with their corresponding college counterparts from University of Houston, University of Texas – Austin, Rice University, and the University of St. Thomas in an effort to win the coveted \$3,500 top prize and \$1,500 runner-up prize. Parents and teachers will also have the opportunity to participate in workshops held in collaboration with the Shell Oil Company and local university partners regarding college access, financial aid, and current issues pertaining to STEM education.

The event will welcome several guests from the Shell Oil Company throughout the day. They are: Fred Whipple, Manager, U.S. Diversity & Inclusion; Michael Alvarez, Shell Workforce & Community Strategic Initiatives; Evette Torres, Specialist, Workforce Development Initiatives; and keynote speaker, Elizabeth Oko, Staff Production Geologist.

**About Great Minds in STEM™**

Great Minds in STEM™ is a national 501(c)3 nonprofit organization based in Los Angeles County with a 27-year history of keeping America technologically strong through the delivery of national STEM awareness programs for students, parents and teachers in underserved communities. Through the GMiS network, academic, career development and mentoring opportunities are offered to students who are underrepresented in STEM fields. The organization is focused on working to build a diverse 21st Century STEM workforce in which all citizens contribute to innovation and experience prosperity.

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