

Press Release

August 4, 2022

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Great Minds in STEM Announces 2022 HENAAC Award Winners

Los Angeles, CA – GMiS is proud to announce the HENAAC Award Winners for 2022! Over 60 companies, government agencies, academic institutions and our Nation's uniformed services collectively nominated hundreds of outstanding candidates. Selection Committee Chairs Dr. Yannis Yortsos, Dean, Viterbi School of Engineering at the University of Southern California and Dr. Emily Allen, Dean, College of Engineering, Computer Science and Technology at California State University, Los Angeles and the over 50 STEM professionals who participated in the peer-review selection process, had a difficult task to select the best of the best for this year's class of HENAAC honorees.

2022 has been filled with many unknowns due to the COVID-19 pandemic impacting all areas of our lives, and employers and organizations large and small could have been forgiven for de-prioritizing recognition efforts. But that didn't happen. This year's nominating class is one of the largest and most robust in recent memory – a testament to our stakeholders' commitment to GMiS and to diversity and inclusion.

All honorees will be recognized during the 34th Annual GMiS Conference, October 5 - 8, 2022, in Pasadena, CA. Stay connected to GMiS social media for information about the programs and platforms that will feature our honorees, and to learn more about their professional experiences, life journeys, and community engagement.



Engineer of the Year
Fernando Signorini
Vice President Operations
U.S. Gulf Coast;
Site Director Texas Operations;
President & CEO Union Carbide
Corporation
Dow



Scientist of the Year
Kimberly Kukurba,
Ph.D.
Associate Director & Fellow,
Data Science & Applied
AI/ML Products
Raytheon Missiles &
Defense
Raytheon Technologies



Chairman's Award
(Posthumous)
Diana Natalicio, Ph.D.
President Emeritus
University of Texas at El Paso
– 1989 to 2019



Executive Excellence
RADM David Goggins
Program Executive Officer for
Attack Submarines
United States Navy



Lifetime Achievement
Luz E. Virgen
Reliability Engineering Manager
Virgin Galactic
"Nominated by and formally of
The Boeing Company"



Lifetime Achievement
Edgar Yzquierdo
Technical Codes &
Standards Team Lead
Chevron Corporation

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Outstanding Technical Achievement - National Lab

Frank W. Delrio, Ph.D.

Principal Member of the Technical Staff
Research & Development
Science & Engineering
Materials Science
Sandia National Laboratories



Outstanding Technical Achievement - Government

Macarena P. Parra, Ph.D.

Instrumentation & Engineering
Technology Research 7
development
Technical Area Lead
NASA Ames Research Center



Outstanding Technical Achievement - Industry

Diego Cristancho, Ph.D.

Research Scientist
Dow



Professional Achievement Level II

Imelda E. Siegelson

Lead Industrial Engineer
General Motors



Professional Achievement Level II

Ricardo Garcia de Alba

Global Senior Business Director,
Enlist & Core Herbicides
Corteva Agriscience



Professional Achievement Level I – Government

Diana Santiago De Jesus

Research Materials Engineer
NASA Glenn Research Center



Professional Achievement Level I – Industry

Douglas W. Orellana, Ph.D., CSEP, OCSMP, ITIL4, SPC5

Vice President of Intelligent Systems Engineering, Innovation and Capabilities Office
ManTech International Corporation



Most Promising Scientist or Engineer – Ph.D.

Olga Reyes Valdes, Ph.D.

Project Topsides HSSE Lead
Shell USA, Inc.

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Most Promising Scientist or Engineer - Ph.D.

Nayomi Z. Plaza, Ph.D.

Materials Research Engineer, Forest Biopolymer Science & Engineering
U.S. Forest Service, Forest Products Laboratory
U.S. Department of Agriculture



Most Promising Scientist or Engineer – Master’s

Anthony Lopez

Senior Energy Researcher
National Renewable Energy Laboratory



Most Promising Scientist or Engineer – Master’s

Nathalie Quintero

Operations Lead, Artemis Core Stage 1
The Boeing Company



Most Promising Scientist or Engineer – Bachelor’s

Erwin Morales

Principal Engineer Mission Assurance
Northrop Grumman



Most Promising Scientist or Engineer – Bachelor’s

Jose J. Colon-Rodriguez

Graduate Research Assistant
West Virginia University



Education

Adeeba A. Raheem, Ph.D.

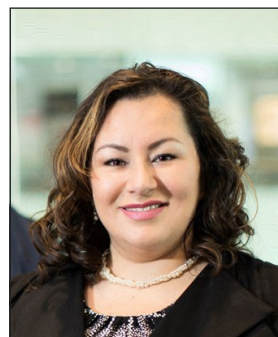
Assistant Professor, Department of Civil Engineering
University of Texas at El Paso



Education

Justin F. Vazquez Poritz, Ph.D.

Dean, School of Arts and Sciences
New York City College of Technology,
CUNY



Community Service

Abigail McFiggins

Hardware Engineering Manager
Lockheed Martin Corporation

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Community Service

Javier Garcia

ACE Project Director
21st Century Community Learning
Centers – Afterschool Centers on
Education (ACE) Program
Communities In Schools of Cameron
County

About the Organization

Great Minds in STEM™ is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization dedicated to keeping America technologically strong by promoting Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) careers, especially in underserved communities. Established in 1989 and based in the Los Angeles area, the organization's nation-wide programming focuses on STEM educational awareness from pre-college through college, and on recognizing and documenting the world-class contributions of Hispanic professionals in STEM to serve as role models for the next generation of American engineers and scientists.

The GMiS Conference is the organization's flagship event where all elements of outreach and programming come together to celebrate excellence in STEM. The conference features executive forums, seminars, competitive programs, career opportunities and networking sessions and is attended by over 3,000 STEM students and professionals annually.

Great Minds in STEM is once again partnering with the Computing Alliance of Hispanic-Serving Institutions (CASHI) in 2022, which has chosen the GMiS Conference as the venue for their annual CAHSI Summit.

For more information about Great Minds in STEM and the 2022 GMiS Conference, please visit us online at:

www.greatmindsinstem.org

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