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STEM-Up™ MAKES SCIENCE FUN AND SWEET

Initiative hosts' kid's corner during 19th Annual Mariachi Festival and Boyle Heights Block Party

Los Angeles- This year's 19th Annual Mariachi Festival was quite a special event. The Mariachi Plaza Station at First Street and Boyle Avenue featured for the first time combined a the festival with a Boyle Heights Block Party as two different stages offered live mariachi, Latino and contemporary music. The long awaited grand opening of the Metro Gold Line Eastside Extension brought in tens of thousands of individuals from all over Los Angeles who took advantage of the free rides from one end of the Gold Line to the other. These combined efforts provided an opportunity to connect the Boyle Heights community and the greater Los Angeles area via the Metro transportation lines.

As a key sponsor of the festivities, the STEM-Up™ Initiative had a forum to share with the community-at-large the overall goals and objectives of the initiative. Additionally, STEM-Up™ hosted a kid's corner featuring hands-on activities and a coloring station. Children were given the opportunity to build Water, Methane, Ozone, Carbon Dioxide and Nitrous Oxide molecules with colored gumdrops. This particular activity informed thousands of children on Greenhouse gases and their effects on the Earth's ozone layer, but more importantly about providing awareness that science is fun. For many, the most enjoyable part was getting to eat the gumdrop molecules as soon as they created them.

Additionally, the STEM-Up initiative officially released Congresswoman Lucille Roybal-Allard's STEM Awareness Campaign print Public Service Announcement, "Students are STEM." As a key partner, Congresswoman Roybal-Allard is advocating that STEM is the cornerstone of our nation's future; the STEM-Up™ initiative will provide students the opportunity to be part of future technical workforce that our country needs in order to continue its stand as the world leader in technology.

STEM-Up Initiative

STEM-Up™ is a Great Minds in STEM Initiative funded through a 5 year contract from the Department of Defense and administered by the United States Army Corps of Engineers, Los Angeles District Office. This initiative will bring Science Technology Engineering and Math (STEM) college and career pathways to light through comprehensive strategies that integrate STEM into schools and underserved communities.

Great Minds in STEM

Great Minds in STEM, formerly known as HENAAC, is dedicated to keeping America strong by promoting STEM careers, especially in underserved communities. HENAAC will remain as the conference name, one aspect of the vast programming that Great Minds in STEM offers. While the organization's name has changed, the vision and mission remain the same. The name change reflects the

expanded role of Education Programs and other efforts taken to promote STEM careers in underserved communities. For more information, please visit www.greatmindsinstem.org.

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