UETP Professor to be honored as Great Mind in STEM at the HENAAC Conference in Buena Vista, FL on October 6 – 8, 2011

UTEP Clinical Professor Gilbert Moreno will be honored as one of the best and brightest Engineers in STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) at the 2011 HENAC conference "ACT! Advancing a Culture of Technology" being held at Lake Buena Vista, Florida from October 6 – 8, 2011. "We're very proud to have Gilbert as a part of our team, and very grateful for all he does for our students and the community," said Dr. Richard Schoephoerster, Dean of the College of Engineering.

For the past 22 years, Great Minds in STEM (formerly known as the Hispanic Engineer National Achievement Awards Corporation or HENAAC ) has been honoring the nation's best and brightest engineers, scientists and technology experts who happen to be Hispanic. A core mission of Great Minds in STEM headquartered in Los Angeles is to highlight and showcase outstanding role models to inspire young people to pursue careers in technology and to motivate professionals to continue to connect with the Hispanic community. The caliber of HENAAC nominees continues to reflect the highest levels of excellence as more Hispanic STEM professionals advance to the forefront of their organizations.

Professor Moreno says his award is a win for all involved in STEM in our region: "This Luminary Award is national recognition of all the good things going on at UTEP and the substantive and innovative efforts the entire El Paso region is making in promoting STEM career awareness, exploration and preparation. I am honored to be representing all the individuals in our region and at UTEP who make STEM careers a reality for our next generation of leaders!"

Moreno was attracted to UTEP by the goals and aspirations of the university to engage in authentic reform in engineering education. He is a Clinical Professor in Engineering Education and in that capacity helps guide the innovative enterprise of UTEP's Center for Research in Engineering and Technology Education (CREaTE). Gilbert teaches entering students for the Entering Students Program and graduate studies in the College of Engineering. He inspires and helps students to visualize and comprehend the value they create through an engineering education.

Gilbert graduated from UTEP in Mechanical & Industrial Engineering awarded as a UTEP Top 10 Senior in 1974. Gilbert fondly remembers Dr. John Levosky as one of many UTEP professors who inspired him and provided outstanding learning experiences during his undergraduate years. Gilbert completed graduate studies at Notre Dame following his graduation from UTEP. He and
his wife Teresa have happy memories of their young married life while at South Bend. Teresa subsequently established Prestige Consulting in 1998 and after a 18-year professional career with IBM, Gilbert joined her consulting company and raising their children Ana, G. David, Robert, Andres, Eddie, and Gloria in El Paso.

Gilbert is active in leadership for a variety of El Paso community organizations. He has served on the Public Service Board (PSB) for the City of El Paso, supported or led strategic projects in all the major El Paso region independent school districts, including the Region 19 Head Start program, and partnered with many private and public entities in the region and across the US and Mexico. He presently serves on the Board of Directors of Communities in Action (CEA), a community-leadership driven organization focused on impacting strategic regional issues. This is one of many roles Gilbert plays in the P-G (so called "PreK-through-Grey" - or lifelong) education community.

"Gilbert is widely respected in the El Paso community, and has a national reputation for strategic planning that delivers value to companies and government," said Peter Golding, CREaTE Director. "Gilbert has provided leadership for The Microsociety Program at Sageland Elementary School in Ysleta Independent School District (YISD) for example. This is now the longest serving Microsociety enterprise in the nation," Golding notes, "and Gilbert is a big part of the reason for the ongoing successes."

Microsociety, Inc. is a national non-profit organization that specializes in building motivating learning environments for students in grades K-8 by bringing real life to learning. Moreno is infusing leadership, business, and STEM learning experiences for Sageland Elementary students. In 2007 the National Microsociety, Inc. of Philadelphia awarded Moreno the George Award for Outstanding Community Partner for his volunteer work.

Juliette Caire, Director of UTEP GEAR UP, praises Gilbert's engagement with K-12 STEM Education. "Moreno is a wizard who weaves a spell on students' success. He helps young minds see the future and value in a university education, which is a key outcome we focus upon achieving through GEAR UP. I am grateful for Gilbert's tireless work for students, says Caire.

HENAAC was in 1989 to promote Hispanic engineering, as the Hispanic Engineer National Achievement Awards Corporation (HENAAC) to honor and promote nation's best and brightest engineers, scientists and technology experts who happen to be Hispanic. These days it is known as Great Minds in STEM.

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