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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SHELL OIL PARTNERS WITH VIVA TECHNOLOGY TO BRING TECHNOLOGY AWARENESS TO THE CLASSROOM

November 3, 2006, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania One Hundred 7th and 8th graders at Downey Elementary School participated in Viva Technology, an exciting science, engineering, and technology awareness program presented by the Hispanic Engineer National Achievement Awards Corporation (HENAAC). Shell Oil, an active supporter of HENAAC's mission to inspire and motivate more students to prepare for and pursue careers in technology, sponsored the two-part event held November 2-3, 2006.

On Viva Day, the students worked in teams to tackle the program's challenges and competitions. Each team was led by two college students from HACC who are majoring in science, engineering, computer science or related technology fields. Throughout the day, these team captains all took advantage of the opportunity to encourage their younger teammates to go on to college and to become professionals in the world of technology.

Students also met real engineers and other technology professionals from Shell Oil who work in the Harrisburg area, including the featured guest speaker, Chemical Engineer, Debbie Grant. In her presentation, Ms. Grant described many of the components of her job as a project supervisor for several gas stations. Students were intrigued by the various requirements needed for a gas station to function. At the end of the presentation, students asked many questions about her job and used many of the topics discussed in Ms. Grant's presentation in their own Dream Challenge Inventions.

Prior to Viva Day for students, the program includes an evening Parent Seminar where Downey Elementary School parents learned about college choices and the academic path that will prepare their students to earn technical degrees, and about the role of standardized tests. Information about the top engineering programs at universities across the nation and discussions about financial aid will be useful as they begin to explore educational and career options for their children in engineering and science.

Since its debut in 2001, the Viva Technology Program has been conducted at over 50 sites across the nation, including locations in 12 states, in various regions of the country. For more information about Viva Technology Programs and upcoming events, including pictures and detailed descriptions, please visit www.henaac.org.

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