



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Great Minds in STEM Announces Dr. Norman L. Fortenberry as New CEO

Los Angeles, August 1, 2023 – Great Minds in STEM (GMiS), a leading organization dedicated to advancing STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) education and careers, is pleased to announce the appointment of Norman L. Fortenberry, Sc.D. as its new Chief Executive Officer (CEO) effective August 7, 2023. Dr. Fortenberry brings a wealth of experience and expertise to his new role, and his appointment marks a significant milestone in the organization’s ongoing commitment to empowering underrepresented communities in STEM.

GMiS envisions being a national leader in keeping America technologically strong by promoting STEM and math careers, especially in underserved communities. It does this by focusing on inspiring future generations, assisting entry into and persistence in STEM careers, enabling future leaders, recognizing achievements, and collaborating with like-minded organizations.

With over two decades of leadership experience, Dr. Fortenberry’s extensive background aligns perfectly with GMiS’s vision and mission. He holds a Sc.D. in Mechanical Engineering from MIT, has served as a faculty member at Florida A&M University, a program director and division director at the National Science Foundation, executive director of the National GEM Consortium, a founding center director at the National Academy of Engineering, interim executive director of the Commission on Professionals in Science and Technology, and as executive director of the American Society for Engineering Education. Fortenberry also has two complementary volunteer roles: president-elect of the [National Alliance for Partnership in Equity Education Foundation](#) and treasurer of the [Prometheus Consortium](#). He has dedicated his career to advocating for diversity and inclusion in STEM fields and has made significant contributions to the advancement of STEM education and workforce development as well as fostering collaboration between academia, industry, and government.

Expressing his pleasure at accepting the position, Dr. Fortenberry stated, “I am honored and excited to join Great Minds in STEM as the CEO. GMiS has been at the forefront of advancing diversity and inclusion in STEM, and I am thrilled to have the opportunity to contribute to the leadership of such a dedicated and passionate organization. I am committed to building on GMiS’s legacy and fostering a more inclusive and equitable future for all.”

Dr. Juan Rivera, Chair of the GMiS Board of Directors, expressed his happiness at Dr. Fortenberry’s appointment, stating, “We are delighted to welcome Dr. Norman L. Fortenberry as our new CEO.”

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Great Minds in STEM Announces Dr. Norman L. Fortenberry as New CEO (continued)

“With his vast experience and demonstrated leadership in the STEM community,” Dr. Rivera continues, “we are confident that Dr. Fortenberry will take GMiS to new heights. His appointment underscores our commitment to advancing diversity and inclusion in STEM, and we look forward to the future growth and influence of GMiS under his guidance.”

As the new CEO, Dr. Fortenberry will lead GMiS in implementing innovative initiatives to bridge the opportunity gap in STEM and expand the organization’s reach. He will collaborate with stakeholders across academia, industry, and government to develop strategic partnerships and create transformative programs that empower underrepresented individuals to thrive in STEM careers.

Under Dr. Fortenberry’s leadership, GMiS aims to amplify its impact and strengthen its position as a leading advocate for diversity and inclusion in STEM. The organization will continue to provide mentorship, scholarships, and networking opportunities to underrepresented students and professionals, creating a robust pipeline of diverse talent that will drive innovation and excellence in STEM fields. The GMiS Conference will also remain the organization’s flagship event, with the 2023 edition, its 35th anniversary event, set to take place in Pasadena, California October 11th-14th, and the 2024 conference scheduled for November 6th-9th in Fort Worth, Texas.

About Great Minds in STEM (GMiS): Great Minds in STEM is a national nonprofit organization dedicated to keeping America technologically strong by promoting STEM education and careers, with a special emphasis on underserved communities. Founded in 1989, GMiS has been at the forefront of efforts to increase diversity and inclusion in STEM fields. Through its various programs and initiatives, GMiS has inspired countless students, provided scholarships, and facilitated connections between students and industry leaders.

For media inquiries, please contact: Ms. Lupe Munoz-Alvarado, Executive Director of Conference and Education Programs, lmalvarado@greatmindsinstem.org.

Note to editors: High-resolution photos of the GMiS logo are available upon request.

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