

NC Society of Hispanic Professionals  
"Promoting Education among Hispanic Youth"

# 22<sup>ND</sup> HISPANIC EDUCATIONAL SUMMIT COMMENTARY

We were excited to come back in-person on Friday, March 25, 2022! We greeted about 500 middle and high school Hispanic students from 29 counties across North Carolina and welcomed them to our 22nd Annual Hispanic Educational Summit, presented by the North Carolina Society of Hispanic Professionals (NCSHP), hosted by the North Carolina State University (NCSU) and co-hosted by the NCSU College of Education and NCSU College of Engineering. We had 20 exhibitors representing various educational institutions and organizations, and several concurrent educational workshop sessions tailored specifically for our Hispanic students. Presenters, teachers, sponsors, representatives of government, education, and business, and a great group of NCSHP volunteers, all shared the NCSHP's mission of promoting education among Hispanic students in North Carolina. Throughout the event, they encouraged students to overcome obstacles, graduate from high school and pursue higher education.

NCSHP President Rocio Anderson welcomed attendees and special guests. This was followed by an inspiring and motivational welcome and opening remarks by NC Attorney General Josh Stein, a NC native with a conviction that diversity and the Hispanic community make NC a great state for our students to achieve their educational goals. Following Attorney General Stein, we had a special guest, Representative Ricky Hurtado, who provided the morning keynote. Ricky an innate motivational speaker with a real-life story, was able to encourage and empower students to overcome the obstacles in their lives and pursue their academic dreams. Students were able to relate to Ricky and his life journey. They followed him to the hallway where they enjoyed some time asking him questions and listening to snippets of his advice. After a short break and a visit to the exhibitor's hall, students were

guided to the concurrent sessions designed specifically for middle and high school students to gain the tools necessary to prepare for their high school graduation and pursue higher education. Workshops addressing (add based on the agenda for the day) Session topics included: careers in science, engineering, agriculture, architecture, college planning, and the admissions process, financial guidance, and personal and professional growth.

With an intentional focus on connecting Hispanic students to STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) education and careers, the NCSHP promoted TuPortalSTEM – a web-based portal that provides information to Hispanic students and their families about the available opportunities for students to participate in STEM-oriented programs in North Carolina and encourages them to pursue careers in STEM. Several exhibitors, such as DUKE Energy, Brassfield & Gorrie, and NC School of Engineering, to list a few, had the opportunity to connect with our students and share about STEM opportunities.

Students also had the opportunity to explore the Exhibit Hall where they enjoyed interactive activities and received information on available programs and services from community colleges, universities, natural & cultural resources, and community supporters.

This year at the Hispanic Educational Summit, NCSHP held our yearly student raffle with some big prizes, including laptop computers, a Lenovo tablet, gift cards, and for the first time, new NCSHP student memberships! We are incredibly grateful to Ricardo Ekmay, and NCSHP 150 Group members, who donated 50 of the student memberships, and to NCSHP funds which helped us match Ricardo's generous gift.

Jorge Pacheco, Board Member, and Scholarship Committee Chair at NCSHP congratulated the recipients of the 2022-2023 NC Hispanic College Fund Scholarships. A total of \$35,000 was distributed in scholarships to attend local community colleges and universities thanks to our generous NCHCF donors: Goodnight Educational Foundation, NetApp, Duke Energy, Juntos Program, Luis A. Olivieri & Evelyn Robert Fund, Red Global de Mexicanos-Raleigh Chapter, NCSHP Engineering and General Scholarships, and NCSHP members and individuals.

**CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 49 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS!**

**OUR BEST WISHES GO OUT TO THE SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS AS THEY EMBARK ON THEIR COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY ADVENTURES!**

NC House District 63 Representative Ricky Hurtado delivered the morning keynote followed by Attorney General Josh Stein, and to close Senior Vice President of IT Transformation at Advance Auto Parts Adolfo Rodriguez delivered the final keynote speech. Each inspired and energized both students and adults alike.

For the eighth year in a row, students and participants of the Hispanic Educational Summit were encouraged to donate funds to the "Students Helping Students go to College," a scholarship established within the NC Hispanic College Fund at Triangle Community Foundation. The day ended with students feeling proud of their heritage and empowered to finish high school and pursue higher education. The turnout this year was truly phenomenal, especially since we returned to in person gatherings! We are delighted with the impact and success of our 22nd Annual Hispanic Educational Summit!

The Summit, like most NCSHP activities, was organized through the support of our dedicated members and enthusiastic volunteers! Volunteers are the heart of being able to hold the largest and most important educational conference in North Carolina for Hispanic youth year after year!

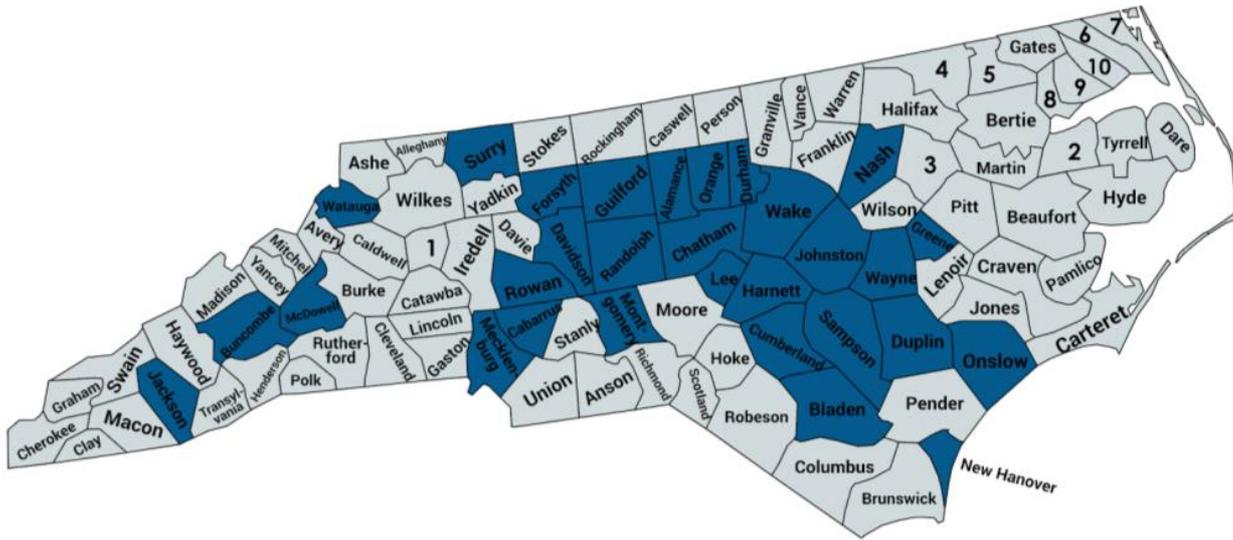
Special thanks are also due to all the educators who encouraged students at the Summit and work daily to bring out the best in students. Thank you also to the educators, counselors, and chaperones who encouraged students to attend the Summit. You are a big part of the Summit's success!

We are very grateful for the participation of the following exhibitors: BASF, College Foundation of NC, Duke Energy, NC Central University Undergraduate Admissions, NC Dept. of Natural and Cultural Resources, NC School of Science and Mathematics, NC State Parks, NC Department of Natural and Cultural Resources, NCSU - Admissions, NCSU College of Education, NCSU College of Engineering, The Department of Natural & Cultural Resources (DNCR)-Education & Outreach, UNC Charlotte-Admissions, UNC Charlotte-Lee College of Engineering, UNC Wilmington - Centro Hispano, and Wake Tech Community College.

NCSHP would also like to thank the 2022 Summit Planning Committee: MariaRosa Rangel, Ricardo Ekmay, Maria Fernanda Garcia, Fatima Falconi, Adriana Ruiz, and Rocio Anderson.

**Thank you for your time, efforts and commitment you bring to our mission!**

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